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Tories retreat from pledge on a Scottish assembly

The Conservative Party has drawn back from its pledge to allow Scotland a directly elected assembly. Instead, Mr Pym, the party's devolution spokesman, addressing the Scottish Tories conference at Perth yesterday, relegated the proposal to the status of an option for consideration.

Promise 'inoperative', Mr Pym says

From Michael Harfield, Political Reporter

Conservative leaders have pulled back from the party's commitment to a directly elected assembly for Scotland. The proposal has been relegated to an option that the party will consider.

The important change in party thinking was set out by Mr Pym, spokesman of devolution, at the Scottish Conservatives' conference in Perth yesterday. Afterwards, in a phrase which will rung around the stages if the election does not go as one, as the Conservative leader of his party's commitment to a directly elected assembly, "it is in a sense inoperative". His speech to the Scottish Conservatives was well received, the great majority of delegates agreeing with what he had to say, although many were little confused about the intentions of the motion that was being debated.

Those with strong views for or against devolution appeared to have been pushed to the wings of the party, some of the former seemingly taking up a federal position.

The motion left the shadow cabinet which briefly discussed evolution on Wednesday, free to make any disposition it feels right in the light of developments at Westminster. It read:

"That this conference welcomes the action of the House of Commons in preventing the amendment without reference discussion of the Scotland and Wales Bill, and calls for an urgent reconsideration of the entire structure of government as the basis of any proposed or effective devolution."

Ardent supporters of devolution, however, as the Mr Pym speech afterwards, Mr Alan Stewart, chairman of the Scottish Conservative Association, said:

"There shall be definitely disengaged there is any desire to keep the communities in Scotland in a breaking faith with their party had said in the past and with those who had no confidence in the party."

Mr Tom Strode, MP for Beresford, South, said: "Devolution is now dead." He added that the debate had given a decent burial to the evolution lobby in the Conservative Party.

The decision to leave all options open is a reversal of the stand the Scottish Conservatives took after the party's general election defeat in February, 1974, when they successfully put pressure on the party leadership in London to be more positive about a directly elected assembly for Scotland.

Mr Pym told the conference at the best way to tackle devolution was to let it be a process of trial and error, not a process of party political will. The trend already seen at one party could be set aside to make an important constitutional change affecting an important part of the United Kingdom as Scotland, what was the reality of the parliamentary position.

"Even the Government has to recognize that," he

Jay posting defended by the Prime Minister

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Mr Callaghan yesterday stoutly defended the choice of Mr Peter Jay, Economic Editor of *The Times*, as ambassador in Washington by telling the Commons that it would not have been right for him to have said "no" to the appointment, since the only ground for refusal was that Mr Jay was his son-in-law.

The Prime Minister said it would have been easy to say "no" but in view of the high qualities and culture of Mr Jay he felt that it was an "imaginative" appointment. He added that whenever he should have denied the appointment, a man merely because he was his son-in-law, "He did not think it would have been right to do so."

It was clear from the mood of the Commons that the initial surprise at the appointment having worn off, most MPs were beginning to have second thoughts. Wisely, there was no reaction from the Conservative front bench, and Mrs Thatcher sat silently throughout the exchanges.

For the next few days there are likely to be rumblings at Parliamentary Labour Party meetings, and some MPs were hoping yesterday to organize a protest in the Commons on neoponism, but none of any other subject on which government appointments could be discussed.

Mr Pym returned to his argument, first produced in February, this year, for an all-party convention to see if, what extent it was possible to reach some measure of agreement on how best to meet Scotland's desire for better government.

He said that the Conservative party, all the parties, would need to enter constitutional talks of the kind I have described without prejudice and without any preconditions except the continued unity of the United Kingdom. Otherwise they will not be fruitful.

All the party's proposals had been met and had been criticized and should be considered again in the light of the changes that have now seen to exist in any form of devolution.

He gave as an example a re-consideration of the proposals put forward by his committee, the Lord's Committee of the House of Lords, 11 years ago, in which there was a suggestion of an elected assembly that would act as the committee on Bills approved at Westminster directly affecting Scotland.

To offer the merits of such schemes had been brushed aside too hastily, he said, even though they avoided the big mistakes contained in the Government's Scotland and Wales Bill.

Such schemes were not to be derided as "having no substance". They would give an assembly power to question Scottish Office ministers; select committees of the assembly could suggest new lines of policy; scrutinize the Civil Service and examine the work of public bodies; the assembly could debate matters of general concern to Scotland and have a part to play in handling Scottish legislation.

The advantages of that kind of devolution were that it would keep a powerful Secretary of State as Scotland's voice in the Cabinet and would provide better accountability and greater involvement in all the conflicts and difficulties inherent in the division of power and responsibility.

If such a modest development could do the job it would be far more likely to succeed and to ensure than a more ambitious, but potentially unstable, constitutional "invention", he added.

If we have been unable to solve this problem in a century we are unlikely to do so now in the heat of cross-party rivalry. It is for this reason more than any other that we believe an all-party examination is essential.

Mr Pym said: "I have indicated positively and unambiguously that it is one of our intentions and hope that the talks should go on and should yield useful results. It is far more important for Scotland, no less than for the United Kingdom, to arrive at the right solution than to rush headlong into a constitutional disaster."

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The original article, which is extremely detailed and quotes many officials, though not by name—in the military intelligence community, was shown to the *Aviation Week* before publication. Some changes were requested, on grounds of security, but none on grounds of accuracy.

The editor, Mr Robert Horne, said: "Mr Carter should dig deeper than the National Security Council briefings to find out the truth of what is now transpiring in high-energy physics technology, both in the Soviet Union and in this country". If he failed to do so, America might some day be confronted with the "disaster of nuclear blackmail".

The original article describes

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Photograph, page 9

Rhodesian ambush

African nationalist guerrillas attacked a civilian convoy on a main road in south-eastern Rhodesia, about 40 miles from the Mozambique border, killing one member of the military escort and injuring four civilians. In Mogadishu, Mr Mugabe, joint leader of the black Rhodesian Patriotic Front, said he had been promised Somali support for his guerrillas.

Leader, page 17

Letters: On the new Ambassador to Washington from Mr Philip Neal Baker, and others; personal service, Mr Patrick Jenkins, MP, and others and on cyclism, from Mr L. Warner, and others

Leading articles: United States and China: Minerals productivity

Features, page 14 and 16

Roger Berrington says there is no substitute for a good ambassador: Bernard Levin on the watchdog's art; Sir Leon Radzinowicz and Joan King on juvenile gangs

Arts, page 15

Irving Wardle on Rolls Royce (Shaftesbury Theatre); Ray Lawler interview with Don Bennett; David Robinson on new films in London; Ned Chailey at the Glasgow Citizens' Theatre

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Professor Roman Kozlowski

Obituary, page 12-13

Emergency meeting called at Lord's today to discuss proposed commercial series in Australia; Racing: Prospects for Newbury and Irish 1,000 Guineas; Gulf Guards lead at Fulford; Tennis: Fred Relman sees Nasar beaten at Dallas

Business News, pages 20-26

Stock markets: Equities had their best day for five months and the FT index closed 13.6 up at 470.2

Financial Editor: Special factors at Shell

Akroyd & Smethurst; British Oil factoring; London oil, Staverton

Business: Kenmare Ovens on plans

to help industry with off-the-peg technical expertise; Carol Appleby on

economic uncertainty over West Berlin

Business Diary: The new man at the wheel of Ford of Europe

On other pages

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Editorial: On the new Ambassador to Washington from Mr Philip Neal Baker, and others; personal service, Mr Patrick Jenkins, MP, and others and on cyclism, from Mr L. Warner, and others

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Business Diary: The new man at the wheel of Ford of Europe

Mr Paisley and the unholy alliance, page 16

Twins show heredity link with earnings

By Neville Hodgkinson
Social Policy respondent

A study of more than two thousand pairs of twins indicates that genetic factors play a huge role in determining an individual's earning capacity.

Chance events appear to be equally important; but the advantages and disadvantages arising from family background and schooling are relatively insignificant in bringing about differences in long-term earning potential.

These are the findings of an unpublished report by a team of American researchers who analysed data received from 2,468 pairs of twins, all aged about fifty.

According to some British researchers, the study provides the best evidence to date in the protracted debate over the respective contributions of genetics and environment to an individual's fate.

A draft of the report, which is to appear in a book on studies of twins later this year, has been seen by some members of the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth. According to Dr Hans Eysenck, Professor of Psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry, London University, it really tells the commission that they might as well pack up.

The findings are significant for matters of social policy because of the implications that attempts to make society more equal by breaking "cycles of disadvantage" in home and school are likely to have much less effect than has commonly been supposed.

Dr Paul Taubman, Professor of Economics at Pennsylvania University, organized a postal questionnaire among 12,500 pairs of twins on a register maintained for research purposes by the American National Academy of Science and the National Research Council. The sample was not random in that the twins were all white, male born between 1917 and 1927 and had served in the Second World War.

Dr Taubman said this week: "It is clear that I am talking about one sample for one generation of the United States, and only at one point in their lifetime. I discussed it with my wife over the course of the next 24 hours before deciding to accept."

No criticism of envy, page 2
Parliamentary report, page 8
Letters, page 17



Mr Callaghan meeting authors yesterday to discuss public lending right. From left: Miss Maureen Duffy, Lord Willis, Dame Elizabeth Jane Howard, Dame Veronica Wedgwood. Mr Kingsley Amis. Report, page 2.

MPs call for substantial oil staff cuts

Commons Select Committee on Nationalized Industries said no general closure of passenger railway services could be allowed in the immediate future, although there should be substantial reductions in staffing. A limited experiment of replacing rail services with buses was suggested, the placement to be made permanent if there was considerable financial relief without social loss.

Even the Government has to recognize that, he

Man killed in Ulster border town

Three gunmen killed a man in a shop in the Ulster border town of Rosslare, Co. Fermanagh. The police think they escaped into the Irish Republic. The port of Larne resumed activity, underlining the continuing effect of the "loyalist" strike. Allegations by the Rev. Ian Paisley of pressure by the Government were rejected.

Page 2

Miners' secret visit

The National Union of Mineworkers has asked the Government to suspend aid to Bolivian mining after three miners returned from an unauthorized visit to mining areas in Bolivia where they found gross violations of human rights. The miners said they were amazed people could survive in the conditions they saw.

Page 19

Council liability

The House of Lords extended the liability of local authorities over building work. Actions for negligent inspection and approval under by-laws may now be brought whenever defects appear, and will not be limited to six years after the offence occurred.

Law Report, page 19

Jerusalem Day

Abroad: Jerusalem provides a background to the Old City by the capture of the Old City by the Israeli Army 10 years ago. There have been many visible improvements in the during its decade under Israeli rule, and a vast and controversial residential building programme is pro-

gressing. Page 11

Mr Benn in

Soviet power

link talks

From Our Correspondent
Moscow, May 12

Inclusion of the Soviet Union in any attempt to formulate an international energy policy is vital, Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, the Energy Secretary and President of the EEC Energy Council, said today. Its inclusion was essential because of the vast extent of the Soviet Union's energy reserves.

Mr Benn said the Russians have 57 per cent of the world's coal reserves, more than 40 per cent of its gas reserves, 60 per cent of peat, 12 per cent of hydroelectric power and a third of petroleum oil reserves.

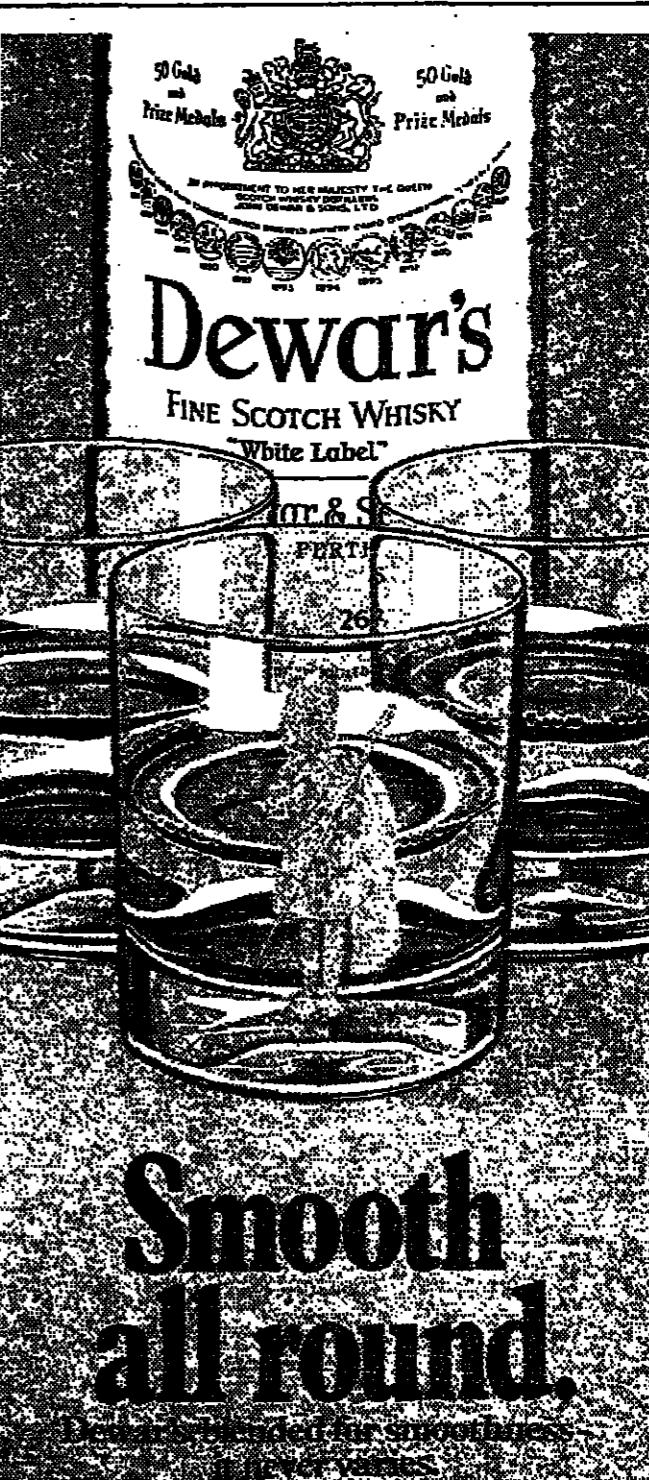
Mr Benn, who has been touring world capitals discussing energy, was talking to reporters after meeting Soviet energy officials, including Mr Vladimir Kirilov, a deputy Prime Minister and chairman of the state committee for science and technology, and Mr Nikolai Matsev, the Soviet Oil Minister. He also met Mr Pyotr Neprazny, the Power and Electrification Minister, and members of the Soviet Atomic Commission.

Later Mr Benn flew back to London.

Mr Benn said it was strange and regrettable that there was no world forum for discussion of energy.

One subject discussed with the power and Electrification Minister was the feasibility of a West European power grid plugged into the Soviet Comecon grid. Mr Benn called this the "sleeping continent principle". Because of the different time zones, the peak load would be spread.

Projects discussed with the Oil Minister included proposed drilling for oil in the Arctic, Barents and Caspian seas. Mr Benn said British firms were interested in both projects and Mr Deff, the Secretary for Trade, would be going into the details when he visited Moscow later this month.



HOME NEWS

Mr Prior proposes national forum of Government, employers and unions to solve inflation cycles

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor
Mr James Prior, MP, opposition spokesman on employment, has proposed a new national forum in which the Government, employers and unions could discuss pay and economic strategy on the basis of an annual report on the nation's financial health.

His proposal is put forward in an open letter to Conservative trade unionists in his Lowestoft constituency in which he calls for an end to the repetitive postwar cycle of wage controls followed by pay explosions.

"Since the war we have seen the development of a pattern on income growth", Mr Prior said. "Concern about our rate of inflation or our balance of payments and the implications in terms of unemployment prompt government to impose controls at the level of wage

"Two or three years later their controls prove untenable and the voices demanding a return to free collective bargaining become more numerous and more vocal. The pay limits are then lifted, or broken, or so expressed that they might as well not exist. Shortly afterwards we get a wages explosion, and inflation takes off again and the cycle starts once more."

In his letter to Mr J. W. Hodges, chairman of the Conservative trade unionists' committee, he said: "Whether we get a stage three to which my meaning can be attached this summer, we are clearly coming towards the end of another of these cycles. But there must be many who fear that it will not be long until we start all over again."

"This process is thoroughly undesirable. It undermines the positions of unions and employers; it distorts our economy; it is a recipe for ever higher inflation and ever high unemployment."

Mr Prior argues that in a free democracy the goal must be to develop a society in which people understand the way in which the mixed economy works, and grasp that changes in one area automatically affect the scope for movement in another.

"Not only that, they must also appreciate how the decisions they make as consumers, as employers, and as trade unionists affect everyone else. It will be a gradual process and envisage it consisting of two operations."

"First we need an independent regular report-like the present annual report on distribution of income and wealth-on the way that pay, prices, tax savings, investment, public spending and employment have developed over the previous year, and the prospects for them in the coming year. This should be put before the people every year so that we can have an understanding of what is possible and how we can help."

"Second, we need a forum in which the major parties can sit down calmly and look at this report. I would not want to give the same name to it. The Government or anyone else should commit themselves to any action they take. But only good could come of them sitting down and seeing what the other parties think of the national economy and the ambitions of other groups."

Mr Prior argues that such a concerted effort holds out the best hope for Britain in the longer term, adding: "If we move quickly and act responsibly, it may provide us with the means which will allow us to move from the present pay restraint without having disastrously inflationary consequences."

The Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex) yesterday published an economic policy paper designed to break the "vicious circle" of wage explosion, inflation and the falling pound that Britain has

experienced in the last decade. Mr Roy Grantham, the union's general secretary, is recommending to his union's 800 branches and sponsored MP's measures to counteract the growing campaign in the unions against another round of income

against another round of income

policy.

He argues in his policy paper

that the Government should cut interest rates and allow the value of the pound to rise to \$1.80, and should help moderate trade unionists by increasing pay-home pay by 5 per cent through engagement of the concessions in the Char-

ter's latest budget.

In return the TUC should agree to sit on the Cabinet for a general wage increase of 7 per cent (with a minimum of £3.50 a week) but also on giving companies from August 1 freedom to increase their wage bill by 3 per cent to deal with differentials, anomalies and low pay, and to negotiate self financing productivity agreements.

By 1964 working-class representation had fallen to 26 per cent, to 17 per cent in 1966, 9 per cent at the end of 1967 and to nothing after the Cabinet in October 1969. The 1970 Cabinet contained 22 middle-class members, 10 of whom had been working-class students at the time of the Cabinet's formation.

The figures are brought together from various sources in an article in the latest issue of New Society by Mr Timothy May, senior lecturer in politics at Manchester Polytechnic. He says there have been two distinct groups in recent Labour Cabinets: the patricians, from middle-class backgrounds, public schools and Oxford and the universities, from marginal middle-class backgrounds and state secondary schools.

Only a quarter of the present Cabinet were educated at public schools and Oxford or Cambridge. Mr May says Mr Wedgwood Benn "is now the sole representative of the Clarendon schools, which is a conventional index of the most prestigious of the public schools; in the 1964 Cabinet there were six products of the nine schools that make up the Clarendon group".

The 1964 Cabinet was strong in patricians, but since 1974 that group has been declining. In 1984 it included Mr Pilkington (now Lord Gordon-Wallace), Lord Gardner, Sir Frank Soskice (now Lord Stow Hill), Mr Anthony Greenwood (now Lord Greenwood of Rosendale); Lord Longford, Mr Douglas Jay, Mr Richard Crossman and Mr Michael Stewart.

The meritocrats, now dominate the Cabinet, Mr May argues, with 13 members: Mr Callaghan, Mr Dell, Mr Ennals, Mr Hattersley, Mr Healey, Lord Elwyn-Jones, Mr Lever, Mr Millan, Mr Morris, Lord Pearl, Mr Rees, Mr Rodgers and Mr Shore.

In 1964 one could classify 25 miners' leaders, yesterday to proceed with negotiations for an incentive scheme that could raise colliers' pay by up to £20 a week if permitted under the TUC-Government pay policy.

The executive committee of the National Union of Miners agreed to talk with the National Coal Board on a production bonus scheme giving surface and underground developing workers the lion's share of productivity-linked increases, but also giving other manual workers a share in the proceeds of improved output.

The move to begin negotiations with the NCB went to the executive's annual vote, but the miners' committee, making deep divisions, industrial and political, within the NUM leadership. Left-wingers will oppose any return to piecework, and a pitched battle on the executive may be expected when negotiations reach a conclusion.

Some of the basic assumptions made in the analysis of Dr Taubman's data were likely to be controversial. Dr Fulcher added: "But he believed them to be reasonable." An old friend of Dr Taubman's, the miners' president, suggested that the miners were almost certainly being negligent.

"So people who focus on eliminating inequality of opportunity, even if they could eliminate all of it, would not end up with much change in inequality of earnings", Dr Taubman concluded.

The heart of the report is a finding that the 1973 earnings of the sons of identical twins who responded were 54 per cent more alike than would be expected if they were not related in any way, whereas the correlation for the non-identical twins was 30 per cent, a difference of 24 per cent.

Non-identical twins, being brothers, share on average half their genes, compared with the 100 per cent shared by the identical twins. But each kind of twin is assumed in the same report to have had the same family environment as his brother, a realistic assumption based on other studies.

On the basis of those assumptions the researchers conclude that the 24 per cent difference between the two types of twin must be accounted for by the 50 per cent genetic difference in the general component in bringing about income difference, which is twice as great: 48 per cent.

Even when the researchers

make various adjustments to take account of complicated genetic effects the genetic contribution stays high.

The 54 per cent correlation for identical twins is brought about by their genetic inheritance plus the family background they shared. Since the genetic inheritance has been calculated at 48 per cent, that leaves only 6 per cent attributable to common environment.

Dr David Fulcher, a senior lecturer at the Institute of Psychiatry, has been analysing the Taubman data again. He believes that, despite the biases in the sample, the study almost certainly provides an accurate representation of the facts.

"You could hardly do much better than this", he said yesterday. "It is unique. This is the first statement on the subject to be prepared on the basis of empirical evidence."

One important conclusion, he said, was that if the leaving age were raised by a year, so that some people received extra schooling, the effect on income and adult status would almost certainly be negligible.

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If the industry had an incentive scheme, he argued, then the target of 135 million tons of deep-mined coal for 1985 could be reached and probably exceeded, putting the industry into regular surplus and generating capital for expansion but the left is suspicious of the proposal to institute method study in the pits. The NUM executive working party has suggested a scheme for face and development workers, with incentive pay to start when they achieve three quarters of an agreed standard of output.

Leading article, page 17

Four railmen killed on line

Four railwaymen were killed yesterday when a passenger train hit them while they were carrying out routine maintenance on the main line from Bedford to St Pancras, London.

The men failed to hear the approaching train, which was reaching top speed just after leaving Bedford station.

The accident was at Kempston Hardwick, where the St

Meritocrats hold sway in Labour Cabinet

By Robert Parker

The social background of leading members of the Labour Party is changing, with Cabinet members and other ministers tending to come from middle-class, grammar school backgrounds rather than from public schools and Oxford, as they did in the mid-1960s.

There are few working-class members of the present Cabinet, whereas in the Attlee Cabinets of the 1940s about half the members had working-class origins, defined in part by having a manual labourer father and no formal education after the minimum school-leaving age.

By 1964 working-class representation had fallen to 26 per cent, to 17 per cent in 1966, 9 per cent at the end of 1967 and to nothing after the Cabinet in October 1969. The 1970 Cabinet contained 22 middle-class members, 10 of whom had been working-class students at the time of the Cabinet's formation.

The figures are brought together from various sources in an article in the latest issue of New Society by Mr Timothy May, senior lecturer in politics at Manchester Polytechnic. He says there have been two distinct groups in recent Labour Cabinets: the patricians, from middle-class backgrounds, public schools and Oxford and the universities, from marginal middle-class backgrounds and state secondary schools.

Only a quarter of the present Cabinet were educated at public schools and Oxford or Cambridge. Mr May says Mr Wedgwood Benn "is now the sole representative of the Clarendon schools, which is a conventional index of the most prestigious of the public schools; in the 1964 Cabinet there were six products of the nine schools that make up the Clarendon group".

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Leading article, page 17

Paisley allegations of pressure and payments rejected

Activity resumes at strike-hit Ulster port

From Christopher Walker

Linen

An air of increasing uneasiness is beginning to surround the 10-day strike, which extreme "loyalists", led by the Rev Ian Paisley, hoped would cripple Northern Ireland's economy, bring back Stormont and force the Government to modify its security policy.

Its dwindling effect was demonstrated yesterday in the bleak port of Larne, Co Antrim, which had earlier been the one centre where the strike call received any significant backing and which leaders of the United Ulster Action Council expected to dictate the pace of the campaign in other areas.

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Leading article, page 17

Councillor questioned by police

By Our Political Staff

AIRPORT: The Conservative Front Bench and all except two backbenchers kept out of the Committee yesterday.

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avoided only by volunteers from other shifts taking over the jobs of the missing men.

Elsewhere in Northern Ireland, drivers of container lorries have stopped driving to avoid passing them to loyalist drivers.

There was a regular flow of cargo and passengers carrying ferries on one side of the harbour yesterday despite a vote by most of the loyalist dockers to keep the port shut. Volunteers operated the equipment for the roll-on/roll-off service while Mr Paisley addressed the strikers in the town hall near with an increasing note of derision.

Only a few hundred yards away, the workers at Ballymullan, who had been working

including the Ulster Defence Association, about the wisdom of passing legislation ahead of the campaign in the fact of such whole-scale opposition.

The Renault 30. A car to re-awaken the driver that lurks inside all of us.



Remember your very first sports car?

Fast. Responsive. And loads of fun to drive.

But hopelessly impractical once you've progressed into bigger saloons.

Which are certainly much more comfortable, but often very boring to drive.

With one notable exception.

The Renault 30 is among the most luxurious prestigious saloons on the road.

But with a 2.7 litre V6 engine it easily puts most sports cars to shame.

Acceleration is remarkable at 0-60 in 9.7 seconds, and a top speed of over 112 mph makes

cruising effortless at 70 mph.

However, it's the handling as well as the performance which makes the Renault 30 such a joy to drive.

Front wheel drive and the positive but light power steering put you firmly in control behind the wheel.

And fully independent suspension gives an uncannily smooth ride, even on bumpy roads that you'd never dare to negotiate in the average two seater.

Comfort, of course, is the Renault 30's strong point.

Sumptuous seating for five adults is helped by fully reclining front seats and 56" of elbowroom in the back.

*What Car 1977

Which still leaves space for a cavernous boot under the tailgate.

(You can even fold away the back seats, giving you thirty



LUGGAGE SPACE WITH THE REAR SEATS REMOVED.

four cubic feet. More than any car in its class.)

Standard fittings include a centralised door locking system, electric front windows and cigar lighters back and front.

But for all its passenger comforts, the Renault 30 is still very much a car for the driver.

And if you still yearn for those days when you raced along with the wind in your hair and the sun on your face, we do offer one consolation.

An electric sunroof as an optional extra.

 **RENAULT 30TS**



THE AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION SHOWN IS OPTIONAL.

HOME NEWS

Radical plan to make education service accountable to society

By Tim Devlin

A radical plan to expand the role of the Schools Council and to make the education service much more accountable to society has been put forward by Sir Alex Smith, chairman of the council, which was set up in 1964 to advise the government on the curriculum and examinations.

Sir Alex suggests that the council's governing body of 83 members should be replaced with a dual structure. It should have a convocation of about 30 or 50 members on which a third of the places should be taken by teachers, a third by local authority representatives, and a third by interested parents, church representatives, industrialists and others.

The professional work of the council now covered by its programme committee would be carried out by about 30 people on a professional board of teachers, school inspectors, local advisers, and other professional educationists such as members of the examining boards. But the teachers would date a working majority.

Sir Alex has been aware since taking over the chairmanship of the council last year that its role should be expanded

from a service mainly producing teaching aids and programmes for teachers to one providing a forum where schools and the community can meet.

The council was criticized last year in a secret memorandum prepared by the Department of Education and Science for the Prime Minister for being dominated by teachers.

A draft of Sir Alex's plan was discussed by a council committee reviewing its constitution. Sir Alex said last night: "It is a set of ideas which we are thrashing out. We have set up a weekend conference later this month in London to look at it."

Details of the plan, published in today's issue of *The Times Educational Supplement*, say the convocation would be a meeting ground between teachers and representatives of industry, commerce, local and central government, parents and others.

It would keep watch on and comment upon aspects of the relationship between schools and the community. It could express concern to the professional board about standards of numeracy among school-leavers. It could discuss the need for new examinations from the point of view of parents and industry.

Teachers' leader defends secrecy of school reports

By Our Education Correspondent

Mr John Gray, president of the National Union of Teachers, defended the keeping of secret reports on school children. He told the union's Sabellian generalization yesterday: "Confidentiality is not sinister but is designed to protect the very pupils on whom the records are made."

Strong pressure has grown during the past two years for local education authorities to allow parents to look at the files kept by schools on their children. That demand has been supported by the Advisory

Centre for Education, Cambridge.

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is expected to mention the confidentiality of school files in her forthcoming Green Paper.

Mr Gray said: "With regard to the actions of the Green Paper that are to deal with the keeping of records and the reporting to parents, there is little difference between the Secretary of State and the teachers except that Mrs Williams seems to be inadequately advised on the current position of reporting in schools."

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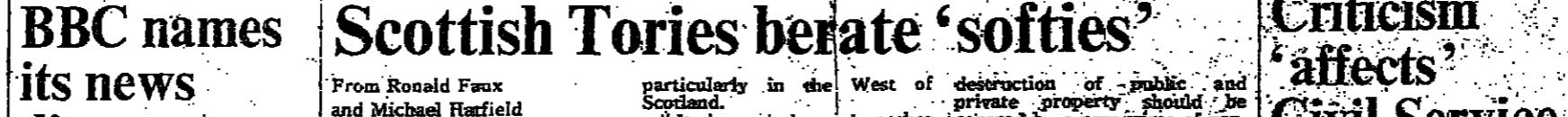
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Telephone bills: customer rebate.

The Telecommunications Business has achieved a highly successful financial year—1976/1977.

- Aided by intensive marketing the volume of telephone calls has been substantially increased over those of the previous year.
- More than one million additional homes have been connected to the system—an all-time record.
- Effective co-operation of management and staff has produced higher output with smaller staff numbers.

All this has contributed substantially to the profit that has been achieved.

In normal circumstances the whole of this profit would be ploughed back to help with the cost of the £1000 million a year investment programme needed to expand and modernise the system.

However the level of this profit must be reduced to conform to current Price Commission rules.

Accordingly we are able to announce that we propose to offer our customers a rebate of £7 per telephone exchange line—

A once and for all credit of £7 will be given on the first telephone bill that customers receive after October 1st. It will apply to customers on the phone at that date who were also connected on May 4th, when the announcement was made. And the rebate will be paid for each exchange line in service. For example, a householder with one line will receive a £7 credit. A business customer with ten lines will get £70.

And in addition Cheap Rate local calls will be even cheaper—

The time allowed for 3p on a Cheap Rate local call will increase from 8 minutes to 12 minutes on August 1st.

The Post Office Users National Council concurs with these proposals.

These benefits are in addition to the stability in our prices—unchanged since October 1975—which we hope to maintain until at least 31 March 1978.

Post Office Telecommunications

HOME NEWS

Manpower commission seeks to take over government agencies

By Mark Jackson, of *The Times Educational Supplement*
The Department of Employment may be about to lose nearly all its remaining responsibility for manpower and administration throughout the country.

Discussions are taking place between the department and the Manpower Services Commission over a transfer of its regional functions to the commission. The latter's proposals would leave the department with little to do outside Whitehall except to pay out benefits on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Security.

Mr Golding, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department for Employment, confirms the existence of the discussions in an interview with *The Times Educational Supplement* today. He says the commission also wants to take over control of the local authority careers service, but has been firmly rebuffed by ministers.

Senior staff of the commission say they expect to put firm proposals to the Government by the autumn for the commission to integrate under its own direction the manpower services now run by the department and by the Training Services Agency and the Employment Services Agency.

Although they are responsible to the commission, reports in June to the Secretary of State for Employment, the two agencies operate separately and autonomously.

The commission, set up

Use of law to enforce closed shop opposed

By Our Political Staff Correspondent

The use of law to impose both the closed shop and the Bullock report's recommendations for worker-directors "is the way to enslave, not liberate, the individual in industry," Lord Carr of Hadley, a former Secretary of State for Employment, said at the Cutlers' Feast in Sheffield yesterday.

The commission has become increasingly influential because of support from the TUC and Confederation of British Industry, both being actively represented among the commissioners, and it can argue that something has to be done to secure a unified control over the various programmes.

It proposed that the new administration should be run through regional manpower directors.

If the department continues to hold out, the careers service would be the only arm of the manpower services remaining outside the commission's control. The service, which is responsible for providing employment help to school-leavers and other young people, and for developing contracts between schools and industry, is run by local education authorities but answers to the Department for Employment.

In his TES interview Mr Golding says that the Government is concerned to maintain the morale of careers officers who, he is convinced, do not want to be part of what he calls "the MSC empire".

He says: "We have specific calls included the careers service from the present discussions, and made it plain that there is no possibility that control will be placed outside central government."

Court action against Canada over seals

Montreux, May 12.—Franz Weber, a Swiss environmentalist, has taken legal action against the Canadian authorities for allegedly permitting 20,000 seal pups to be skinned alive.

Hundreds of children battered but neighbours stay silent, report says

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The reluctance of neighbours, friends and relatives to tell the authorities if children are being beaten at home by their parents, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children suggests in its annual report, published yesterday.

Some children "were terribly disfigured by assaults of incredible ferocity", the report said. Some were "scratched and neglected to a degree that is unthinkable in a civilized community".

It added: "We are convinced that many more children are suffering needlessly, yet those who know of their circumstances choose to remain silent."

Among the 2,194 children lacking proper care whom the society's inspectors helped last year were a boy aged seven weeks, whose father stopped his cries by putting sealing plaster over his mouth. A boy aged three was found trussed like a chicken, his hands bound behind his back with a plastic clothes line that also tied his feet.

A girl aged seven was forced to stand in front of a gas fire until her legs were burnt. Three brothers, aged seven, nine and 10, were left bruised and bleeding after their mother had thrashed them with a metal studded belt, a dog chain and a heavy plastic baseball bat.

Other children were left alone, found locked in their financial difficulties.

Minister's warning of clashes with gypsies

Violent clashes between gypsies and householders throughout Britain will grow if legal sites for gypsies are not soon provided, Mr Marks, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, said yesterday.

His warning came during a fact-finding tour of authorized and illegal sites in London, in which he emphasized the need for local authorities to meet their statutory duties to provide legal stopping places for the 40,000 to 50,000 caravan nomads.

A cup of tea with Marjorie Lee, the wife of Tom Lee, secretary of the Romany Guild, in her comfortable caravan at the permanent site at Temple Mills, Stratford, east London, was followed by less amicable meetings with gypsies, residents and officials from the borough of Tower Hamlets.

There gypsy Roger cars came over the hill at the Bow fly-over and settled on the illegal tarmac pastures of Poplar about 15 months ago, to the dismay of local residents.

The Caravan Sites Act, 1968, largely ignored legislation that imposed a duty on county

councils.

Every company should have

to include in its annual report

a statement about what has

been done each year in promoting participation for all its employees. Tax laws should be changed to encourage share ownership and profit-sharing

houses or in cars parked outside public houses and clubs, or left to roam the streets while their parents were at work.

Most of the cases of cruelty were brought to the society's notice by neighbours or anonymous letters, and the report showed that in several cases the children were removed from the care of the batterers.

The society opened 16,703 new cases last year, involving 46,971 children, of whom 885 were physically injured, including 648 suspected of non-accidental injury.

In addition, 2,194 children were found to lack proper care and 30,378 were considered to be at risk. The society helped 3,327 families who had serious financial difficulties.

Telephone pagers introduced

By a Staff Reporter

A new Post Office paging service designed for reaching people on the move through the public telephone service is fully operational in London, the Post Office announced yesterday.

The service, known as radio-paging, covers 900 square miles of the capital and Home Counties and will provide for 20,000 customers initially, rising to a maximum of 100,000.

Within that area people carrying pocket radiopagers—tiny radio receivers that emit a distinctive "bleep" when called—can be automatically connected simply by dialling a 10-digit number on the telephone.

Different tones indicate to the carrier whether he is wanted by home or office and there is a device that allows the receiver to be switched to "memory" to receive a call when it is switched off.

For users who need to alert a number of staff simultaneously there is a group-call in which up to 59 pagers can be bleeped with one call. Calls to pagers are free. They cost from £21 a quarter to rent.



Old Holloway: Miss Sybil Morrison, aged 84, a pacifist prisoner in Holloway in 1940, taking a last look at the suffragette wing of the old prison before its demolition, which started yesterday.

Plans for air service disruption if final talks on new Anglo-American pact fail

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

British and American government aviation officials will meet in London on Monday for the last round of talks towards a new North Atlantic air services agreement before the existing one, signed in Bermuda in 1946, expires on June 23.

Although the negotiators think that a new agreement can be signed before the deadline, each side is laying plans to interfere with the Atlantic air services of the other if there is a deadlock.

The British would withdraw some of the rights of American airlines to pick up passengers in London and to send them to destinations in Europe, the Middle East and the Far East.

The Americans are likely to restrict British Airways services from their west coast to London.

But both sides agree that a cessation of air services between the two countries, which carry three million passengers each summer, would be unthinkable.

Britain gave notice that the existing Bermuda agreement

would be cancelled in June because it was considered it had become no longer fit for the American's favour.

In negotiating sessions in

London and Washington about

a half of a new agreement

which will run to some 20

articles, has been agreed. At

the London session next week

the British will press the

Americans to reduce the large

number of empty seats on their big fleets of jumbo jets with which they flood the routes.

Britain will drop her

original demand that only one

American airline should fly

between London and New York

and London and Los Angeles

if at least some of the United

States services use Gatwick air-

port rather than Heathrow.

Referring to the talks, Mr

Del, Secretary of State for

Trade, told a conference in

London yesterday, called by the

Airline Users Committee on

air travel in Europe, that he

was determined to remove "the

water-tight provision of

capacity, which had been such

a lamentable feature of air

services across the north

Atlantic in recent years."

Mr Freddie Laker, chairman

of the independent Laker Air-

ways, gave the conference what

Minister explains how film came in diplomatic bag

A Treasury minister explained yesterday how a Belgian film called *The Wedding Trough*, which includes a sexual scene involving a man and a pig, came to be brought into Britain in a diplomatic bag.

Sir Archibald Hope, deputy chairman of the users' committee, accused airlines in Europe of subsidizing one fare with another and charging what they thought the market could bear. Airlines should be made to publish all their costs.

Psychiatrist examines George Ince for an hour

By Stewart Tandler

A consultant psychiatrist was allowed into Wormwood Scrubs prison yesterday to examine George Ince after his solicitor had issued a writ against the Home Office alleging medical negligence.

Mr Anthony Whitchurch, the psychiatrist, and Mr James Saunders, Mr Ince's solicitor, spent more than two hours at the prison. Mr Ince was examined for more than an hour and Mr Whitchurch was allowed to read prison doctors' reports on Mr Ince.

The examination took place in the prison's hospital wing in which Mr Ince is now kept permanently. Mr Whitchurch is expected to complete his report by the beginning of next week.

Yesterday neither the psychiatrist nor the solicitor would comment on Mr Ince's condition.

The writ issued on Wednesday

sought damages for breach of

duty and negligence in the

treatment of Mr Ince. He

suffered a thrombosis in

January after a history of dis-

turbed behaviour while at

Gartree Prison, Leicester.

Mr Ince is serving a 15-year sentence after being convicted of taking part in the Mounting silver bullion robbery.

He maintains that he is

innocent. Mr Rees, the Home

Secretary, is considering his

case.

Mr Robert Sheldon, Finan-

cial Secretary to the Treasury,

said in a letter: "The film was

temporarily imported in April

for showing to private club

members in the course of a

week of Belgian films at the

National Film Theatre. The

programme was partly spon-

sored by the Belgian Govern-

ment, and for reasons of

economy and convenience the

films were carried in their

diplomatic bag."

"Customs arranged to view

The Wedding Trough and found

that by reference to their cur-

rent criteria based on the

degree of sexual explicitness

and overall sexual content, it

did not contravene the import

prohibition."

Mr Sheldon said there was a

case in such circumstances for

obtaining guidance on the pos-

sibility of extending the appli-

cation of the prohibition beyond

merely sexual matters. He

added: "If a commercial im-

portation of this film should

occur, customs would not feel

inhibited from seizing it in

anticipation of proceedings."

Crisp store fire

A warehouse full of crisps, owned by United Biscuits, was

badly damaged by fire at

Billingham, Teesside, yesterday.

Fire doors stopped the fire from

spreading into the crisp factory.</p

OME NEWS.

Keep rail services but cut staff'



Mr. Russell Kerr: 'Dispel some railway myths'

for Birmingham, Redditch and Heston and chairman of the subcommittee that carried out the investigation, said yesterday that the report sought to dispel some of the myths surrounding British Rail, a nationalised institution, and to present a balanced picture.

The report feels that while British Rail receives less government support than most of its Western European counterparts, and at the best, provides a standard of service that can stand comparison with any other in the world.

Nonetheless, it is frequently accepted, indeed seeming to say, that the railways are run at a loss and the claims of those who run them. It draws directly unfavourable comparisons in terms of volume and efficiency with France, West Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark and criticises the Government for undue pessimism about the future level of passenger and freight traffic.

It points out that changes in population have implications for the rail network. There is likely to be a relative decline in the importance of non-stop inter-city routes, and greater demand for short, frequent, local services. It advocates more investment in passenger rail heads. There is also scope for developing passengers cross-country lines now confined to freight.

On the subject of manning, it states that the productivity of the British Rail labour force appears to be the lowest of the main west European railway systems. That is not necessarily due to more rapid staff reductions elsewhere, but to increases in traffic while labour forces have remained constant. Mr. Sidney Weightman, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaysmen, strongly backed the suggestion that there should be cuts in manpower, and the Railways Pension League, which called turning railways into a co-operative, accused the committee of being remiss.

Mr. Russell Kerr, Labour MP

Bigger British bacon, beef and skim milk 'mountains'

Hugh Clayton says bacon prices and a steady growth in British food "mountains" stored under EEC rules were announced yesterday. Bales bacon prices rose after the Government had agreed an investigation of the bacon trade to ensure shoppers were not being exploited.

Bacon produced in Denmark, United Kingdom and the Republic rose by about a pound. Grocers will impose strict rules on different cuts of bacon.

A steady rise this year in prices of butter and skim milk powder was reported by the Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce, the Civil Service division with 500 staff and administers the common agricultural policy (CAP) in Britain.

The board reported that the amount of butter accepted into

Food prices, page 14

More overseas students enrol at polytechnics

Our Education correspondent says Government measures to induce the numbers of overseas students in Britain have had little impact so far on enrolments on courses at polytechnics. The latest figures published by the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics show the proportion has continued to increase from one student in eight to one in ten. Nearly a third of the students on engineering and technology courses come from overseas.

The figures also show that enrolments as at November, 1976, show an increase over the previous year. The numbers enrolling on all

full-time and sandwich courses have increased by 7 per cent from 105,207 to 112,626.

The increase includes a very healthy swing back to scientific and technological courses, where enrolments have increased by more than a tenth.

The number of science and mathematics students has increased by more than an eighth.

Teacher unemployment: A prediction that nearly three Scottish teacher-training students out of four will be unable to find a teaching post in the summer is given in this week's edition of the Scottish Educational Journal.

A survey of teachers need suggests that 3,000 of the 4,469 students may be unemployed.

BAA may take over airport at Newcastle

The British Airports Authority may add Newcastle upon Tyne to its growing list of airports if talks now taking place succeed.

Newcastle is run by an authority made up of representatives from three local county councils: Tyne and Wear, Northumberland and Durham. The airport needs at least £1.5m to be spent on terminal buildings to cope with an increasing number of passengers.

The BAA already has seven airports in Britain, including Heathrow and Gatwick, and the international airport at Prestwick in Scotland.

Unusual exhibit at Royal Society

An unusual scientific exhibit at the Royal Society in London last night presented what was described as the oldest sperm in the world in a demonstration labelled "Bull semen frozen in 1952 and thawed to celebrate the silver jubilee".

It was one of 22 demonstrations of research illustrating key developments in the past 25 years, including molecular biology, astronomy, chemistry, physics and other subjects. The sperm was shown to be fertile and in good condition.

Spanish skipper fined £800

Luis Zuburgaray, a Spanish trawler skipper, who admitted fishing with nets of no smell, a mesh inside the 300-mile limit off the Welsh coast, was fined £800 with £50 costs and had his nets confiscated and ordered to be removed by magistrates at Milford Haven, Dyfed, yesterday.

Mr. Zuburgaray, of San Sebastián, was also told that his ship, the Rio Irazú, would be detained until arrangements had been made to pay the fine and costs.

Figures stolen

Thirteen eighteenth-century earthenware figures valued at £20,000 have been stolen from the public art gallery at Brighton. They depict musicians and are between four and eight inches high.

Jail for supporters

Four teenage football supporters were jailed at Cardiff Magistrates' Court yesterday for offences on the day of the Cardiff-Chester game in March.

Disquiet at risk of drinking waste water

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Similarly, while the committee advocates the ending of general railway freight subsidies next year, it says that the resource costs incurred by heavy lorries well exceed the taxes levied on their use. The Government should therefore continue to reconstruct the vehicle excise duty so that such lorries meet their economic and social costs.

The report strongly commends the "Metro" rapid transit scheme under construction on Tyneside and says it would be a national tragedy if it did not go ahead. Many of its troubles need not have arisen if there had been proper consultation from the beginning.

It rejects British Rail's arguments that a passenger transport authority for London would create more difficulties than it would solve and would merely introduce another level of bureaucracy. "If London is ever to have a public transport system worthy of a capital city, a radical change is needed in the organization," it states.

While welcoming the praise given in the report, British Rail's first chairman considers that the firm's impression was that the committee's estimates of the necessary financial support were markedly too low. It would be necessary to raise the level of investment substantially during the next decade if the railways were to continue on anything like their present size and scale.

First Report of the Select Committee on Nationalized Industries. The Role of British Rail in Public Transport. House of Commons Paper 305.1. Stationery Office. £2.10. (Because of an industrial dispute copies of the report are not immediately available.)

Although occurring in tiny amounts, measured in parts per million and parts per thousand million, these substances are often known to be potential health risks. The effects of hundreds of other compounds of synthetic origin are unknown.

More than 350 of these materials have been identified in drinking water, but the conference was told that the effect on health of less than a half a

tonnes has been fully researched. Yet one estimate referred to shows that more than 80 per cent of cancer cases could be attributed to environmental contamination.

Great emphasis was laid on the fact that these "metropolitans" interacted in subtle ways to give cause for concern. The examination of organic substances in water made a distinction between two types of pollution: intermittent localized incidents, which can be quite dramatic; and continuous low-level discharges from many sources. Little is known about the latter.

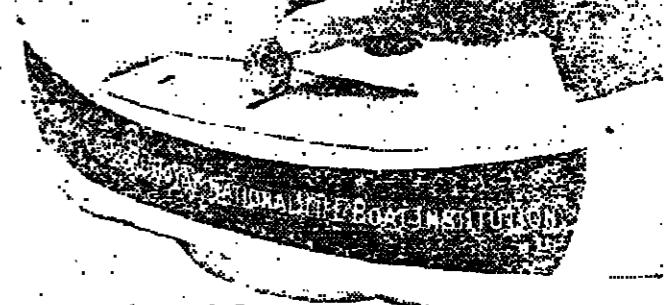
Many of the sources are easily recognized but others are difficult to identify.

The alternative approach of making a comprehensive analysis for every substance likely to occur is rarely feasible. Many substances could be ignored by water suppliers in the past, but now they are being forced increasingly to use water again. Surface run-off from farmland introduces synthetic substances such as pesticides and herbicides.

Run-off from road surfaces contains a great variety of substances, some originating from motor fuel, tyres, road-surfacing materials. Even more important, motorway run-off may contaminate groundwater aquifers, which are usually regarded as pure sources of supply.

Similarly, the atmosphere can no longer be ignored. A heavy downpour can contain higher levels of organic compounds than a river into which the water will drain. Thus water remote from industrial areas may receive micropollutants.

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BRITISH GAS

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EST EUROPE

1,500
envoy says
Le Monde
wrong about
British aim

Mr Douglas Cranmer, Our Own Correspondent, May 12.

Mr Nicholas Henderson, the British Ambassador, has responded to *Le Monde* over allegations in a leading article that Britain secretly wants to join the European Community, a free trade area dominated by the United States.

This seems to me to exceed Frenchmen-like to call "play," he wrote in a letter published by the paper today. Allegations about Britain's actions were made by *Le Monde* after the recent difficulties on agricultural issues in Luxembourg.

The ambassador wrote:

"Our entry into the Community, food prices have risen 120 per cent in Britain in recent years, against 57 per cent in France." While it was easy to say that the current rise was due to other factors, a fact that it coincided our membership has led us to impinge on the Common Agricultural Policy.

It was true that the British government did not like the Common Agricultural Policy as it stood, especially with regard to the creation of butter, beef, wine surpluses. "Our

actions on certain aspects of its ability are shared," by

Sir Nicholas' view justified the charge that we intended to dominate common external tariff of Community. Since entry had substantially reduced imports from third countries, even of such sensitive items as butter and cheese as New Zealand. This had to a huge payments deficit with the Community.

It was also foreseen that we would urge the Japanese to impose restrictions on imports from the Community.

French and British interests were often complementary, the ambassador wrote. There could no question of doubling the amount of Britain to Europe in the 1973 referendum.

Leaders of Efta meeting to counter threat from Nine

London, May 12.—Leaders of nine European Free Trade Association (Efta) will chart a new economic course for the fast-dwindling during a one-day conference here tomorrow.

The planned departure of Efta from Efta's joining the European Economic Community raised fears that Efta may be overwhelmed by the C. Britain and Denmark joined the Community in

The expansion of the C has strengthened its hand international trade bargaining at the cost of the less

central Efta countries.

Mr Kreisky, the Austrian minister, who first suggested tomorrow's meeting, will play a prime ministerial role in the negotiations between ministers from seven—Finland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Years that Efta may be overshadowed by the EEC are shared as six Efta members and Finland, an associate, will abolish most tariff barriers with EEC countries on July 1.

Mussolini widow sees case for turn of lands

London, May 12.—The widow of Benito Mussolini has lost a legal struggle for the return of property confiscated after Second World War.

Donna Rachel Mussolini, 86, had claimed that farms land she owned independently of her husband were unfairly confiscated by the Government. The case reached Italy's Supreme Court in 1968 and nine years of deliberation took until yesterday that decree authorizing confiscation applied equally to property owned by Donna herself. Reuter.

Imely reminder that Marx and Christians do not mix

Our Own Correspondent, May 12.

The Italian Roman Catholic archbishop repeated in a document published here that Christianity and atheism, Marxism must be regarded as irreconcilable.

His sentiments are not new; their repetition coincided negotiations in which the Christian Democratic government is seeking agreement on a governmental programme with the Communist party.

He comments on Marxism included in a preface to a document on Christian unity.

Catholic identity prepared the steering committee of national episcopal conference being held in Rome. The document calls on Christians "not to forget, when they face up to the real situation in Italy, the anthropological metaphysical materialism of the left."

Hotel death toll reaches 19

Amsterdam, May 12.—Rescue workers found three more bodies today in the debris of Hotel Polen, destroyed by fire on Monday. This brings number of known deaths to

3.4pc rises agreed by Swedish unions to avert mass strikes

Stockholm, May 12.

Swedes appeared to day to have averted the possibility of mass strikes which would have further damaged the country's already recession. The Social Union Conference previously accepted the government's offer of 3.4 per cent per year for 1978, for its 500,000 members. Sources said that planned strikes would be called off for the time being.

But the Private Salaried Staff Council (PIK) today rejected the mediators' final offer of a 2.3 per cent rise. The PIK said that some 5,000 employees in sensitive industries would withdraw labour tomorrow, taking parties and flights to and from Sweden.

Mediators promised to work round the clock to avert the strike. Limited industrial actions are already in progress because of the failure of reaching agreement in the negotiations begun in October.

The talks broke down several times. On April 29, the PIK declared an overtime ban for its members, which has affected the operations of large Swedish multinationals firms such as Volvo. On Monday, the Scandinavian Airlines System (Sas) had to reduce domestic and overseas flights because 2,200 cabin staff walked out. The staff are being sued for breach of contract.

The troubled labour scene is coupled with a surge of socialist sentiment to the advantage of the Social Democratic Party which ruled Sweden for 44 years until last autumn's election.

The Government, led by Mr Thorbjörn Falldin, of the Centre Party has inherited a host of economic problems which are becoming more acute and has to face antagonistic labour unions affiliated to the Social Democrats.

The Sunday public opinion poll published on Sunday showed an impressive comeback for the Social Democrats and the small Communist Party, their

unofficial parliamentary partner. If an election was held this month the Socialists would return to office with 31.5 per cent of the vote, according to the poll, compared with 45 per cent for the non-Socialists.

On May 1, the largest crowds in recent memory unfurled flags in Swedish cities at large socialist rallies. At a demonstration in Göteborg, Mr Olof Palme, the Social Democrat leader and former Prime Minister, attacked the Government's economic policies.

Mr Falldin's problems are inevitable. Real incomes and standards of living are dropping for the first time in a generation. Inflation is estimated at 10 per cent and there is a large balance of payments deficit.

Each month the Government presented to Parliament a crisis programme including an increase in value added tax on all goods and services, a temporary price freeze, cuts in non-priority buildings. At the same time, the Government had to allow large subsidies to the faltering shipbuilding industry.

Mr Gösta Bohman, the Minister of Economic Affairs and leader of the Conservative Party, was responsible for the 6 per cent devaluation of the krona in April. He said that devaluation would result in a 1 per cent growth in exports and a 0.6 per cent fall in imports.

The difficulty was that international money markets did not accept the 6 per cent devaluation. The effective devaluation was only 4 per cent at noon today against the currencies in the European "snack."

The need for an effective devaluation was emphasized today by Dr Erik Lundberg, a leading Conservative economist. He said that Sweden was facing the worst recession since the 1930s and proposed another devaluation of the krona and an additional rise in tax, see from June 1 or 19.6 per cent. He also called for a cut in payroll taxes.



Mr Jenkins, President of the EEC Commission, with Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, in Bonn.

Candidacy of Spanish Premier challenged

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, May 12

In a complaint to the Board of Elections, political opponents of Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Spanish Prime Minister, have challenged his legal right to stand for the Congress of Deputies, according to a report published here today.

If the challenge succeeds, it could be expected to reduce the power at the polls of the centre coalition at present headed by Señor Suárez. The result would be a polarization of the vote in the first free democratic elections here in 41 years.

According to the decree-laws on elections published last March, candidates may be impugned by candidates of other parties in the same province or district. In such cases, the provincial court of administrative affairs must make an urgent decision on the matter within three days after receiving the documentation from the Board of Elections.

The dispute over Suárez's eligibility has been foreshadowed in a series of articles in conservative newspapers, suggesting that the Prime Minister is bound by the same rule which applies to Cabinet ministers—that he should have resigned before being officially registered as a candidate. However, there is doubt among lawyers in the capital about the correct interpretation of the law.

Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, called on King Juan Carlos today to attend a meeting of the joint Spanish-American committee concerned with United States air and naval bases in Spain. General George Brown, chairman of the American joint chiefs of staff, also attended the meeting and so did Señor Oreja, the Spanish Foreign Minister.

Communists endorse French nuclear force

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, May 12

General de Gaulle must be turning in his grave over the endorsement by the Communist Party of the French nuclear deterrent which it has opposed since its inception.

This is yet another radical change in Communist policy on a fundamental point of doctrine, and is designed to consolidate the Communist image as a responsible party, capable of assuming the burdens of government.

For maximum effect, it was announced on the eve of tonight's television debate between M. Barre, the Prime Minister, and M. François Mitterrand, the first secretary of the Socialist Party.

The old Stalinist Communist Party has undergone a thorough face-lift in the past year. After the abandonment of dogma of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the condemnation of the Soviet Government's persecution of dissidents, and the approval of direct elections to the European Parliament, there is now a wholehearted endorsement of one of the cornerstones of Gaullist philosophy—an independent national defence.

For months, in their attacks on the Government's alleged drift back to Nato, and their insistence on national sovereignty, the Communists have tried to outdo the Gaullists on their own ground, and broaden their popular base by appealing to the chauvinist streak deep in the mentality of many Frenchmen who have no sympathy for Marxist-Leninist philosophy.

In so doing they have stolen another march on their Socialist allies, whose official thinking on the nuclear deterrent has not progressed as rapidly. The common programme of the left of 1972 stipulates the gradual rundown of the Force de Frappe. Last November the Socialist Party's executive came to the conclusion that it was necessary to take its existence into account, but owing to the strong pacifist and anti-nuclear feelings of the party rank-and-file, shied away from an official pronouncement.

Since last summer, the Communists have been making tentative moves in the same direction. Their rank-and-file was also reticent, but more disciplined, and they realized that there was a political opportunity to be seized by getting the credit for reconciling the common programme with the harsh realities of the military situation.

M. Jean Kanapa, a Politburo member in charge of international affairs, declared in his report to the Central Committee: "We fought with all our strength the choice and the policy which led to the setting up of a nuclear force."

"Today, this weapon is a fact; today, it represents the sole real deterrent of which the country will dispose for a time to face up to the threat of an aggression."

The Communists not only endorse the existence of the French deterrent, they insist on the need to improve its performance and reduce its dependence on the Nato warning system, which is precisely what the Gaullists have been demanding.

They want to return to the purity of the original nuclear strategy of General Ailleret, and his Gaullist concept of all-round defence, as opposed to later deviations which designated the potential enemy in the East.

But they differ from Gaullist thinking in one respect: instead of the President of the Republic having a monopoly of the decision as to its use, this should be determined by a political and military committee, in which the government parties would be represented.

There is much scope for friction with the Socialists over the updating of the common programme on defence. Some leaders, like M. Charles Hernu, their military expert, or M. Robert Pontillon, the party's secretary in charge of international affairs, have pleaded for closer military cooperation with other partners of the alliance, and suggested that the French deterrent might at a later stage be merged with a European nuclear force.

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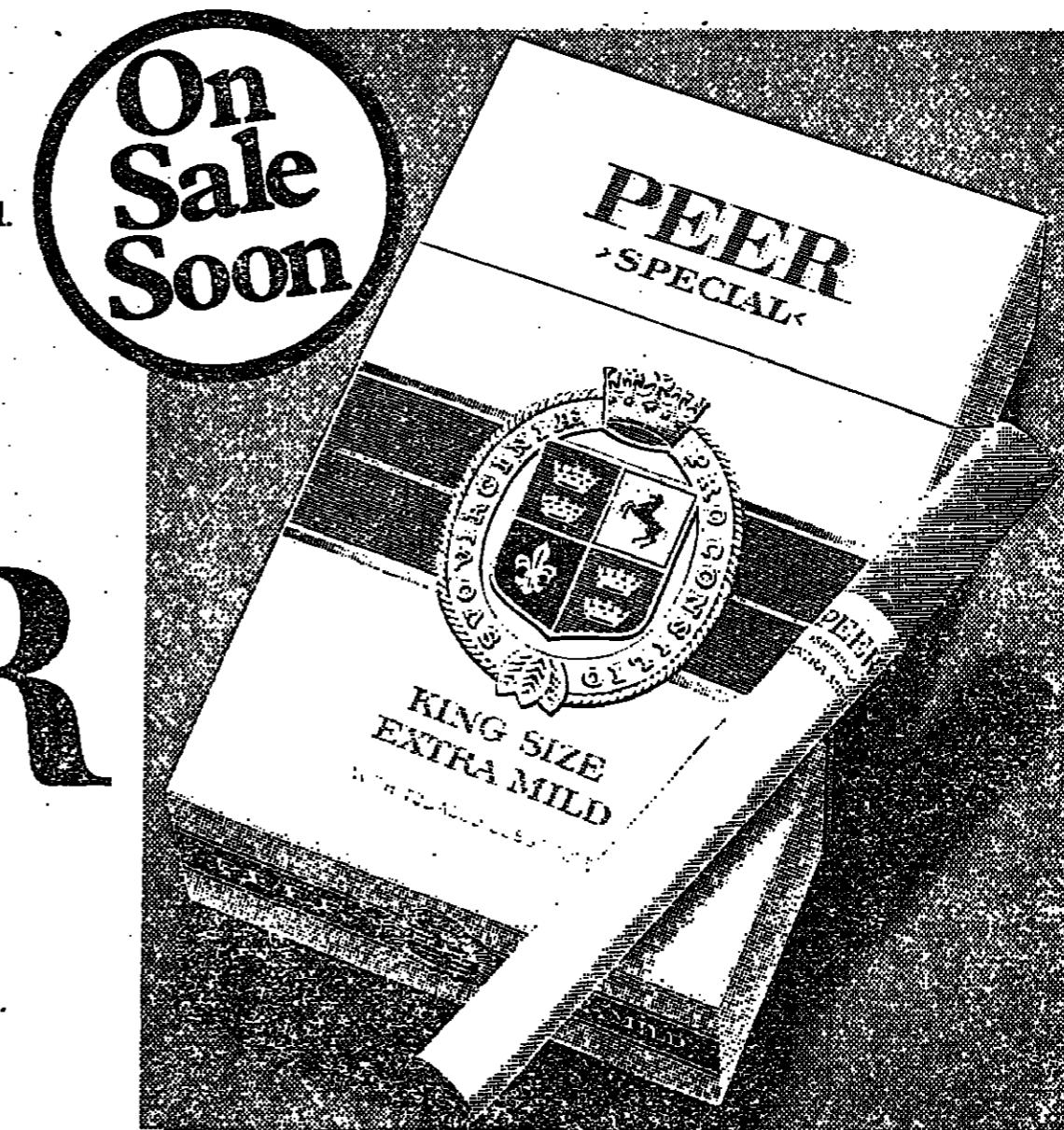
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Floods caused by Sweden's thaw

Stockholm, May 12.—Thawing snow has caused flood damage in Sweden costing almost £12m. In the central provinces, rivers and lakes are rising rapidly with the warmer weather.

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OVERSEAS

Mr Mugabe says his guerrillas operate in two-thirds of Rhodesia

Mogadishu, May 12.—Mr Robert Mugabe, the black Rhodesian nationalist leader, says his guerrilla forces are operating over two-thirds of Rhodesia and he hopes that operations will be extended into the rest of the country.

He also says that President Muhammad Siad Barre of Somalia has promised help in the fight against the Rhodesian Government.

Mr Mugabe told a press conference in Mogadishu that he can no longer seek help from Somalia and we have done so with immense success because the response we got from the President was very good.

He added: "While I am pleased that at last the Anglo-American initiative has started, I regret that it would appear that Salisbury will not be the headquarters of the operation."

Rhodesian guerrillas were asked to have disbanded by our Foreign Staff write: Mr Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, is to make the first official visit by a British minister to Somalia since the country gained independence from Britain in 1960.

Asked about the inclusion of the United States in seeking a negotiated settlement, he said: "We suspect really that Britain is trying to involve the United

Miners on secret visit urge halt to Bolivia aid

By David Wets

States so that the process of decolonialization does not go the full length in creating a genuine government in Zimbabwe, but is rather a half measure which creates a neo-colonialist regime which can be manipulated.

Salisbury, May 12.—Mr Smith said in a statement today that the latest British proposal in the Rhodesian constitutional dispute was an attempt to pander to the Patriotic Front and to the Presidents of the so-called front-line African states.

The men, led by Mr Ken Toon, the South African miners' association, posed a mixture of miners and salesmen of mining equipment after the Chilean Government refused to permit the visit. The Bolivian Government was not approached. Trade unions have been banned in Bolivia since 1974 and leaders of the miners' union have been exiled, jailed or reduced to the status of beggars.

The three had lunch yesterday with Mrs Judith Hart, the Minister of Overseas Development, to report their findings. Mrs Hart said recently that no decision had been taken on aid to Bolivian mining. But the British press has reported that agreement has already been reached.

The NUM executive called yesterday for suspension of the aid until liberties are restored. The Bolivian Army has been occupying the tin mines since miners went on strike last June. The strike was the signal for severe repression of mine workers.

Noting that the life expectancy of a miner in a Bolivian mine is 30 years, the visitors said they were amazed that people survived in the appalling conditions they saw.

Despite the record high price of tin on the world market there has been little improvement in miners' lives, the delegates said. The highlight of the journey came in Chile, when the men attended a May Day church service in Santiago, where the congregation broke into applause when the three entered with Chilean trade unionists.

Nondescript fishing town has become strategic port

Why Pretoria is determined to keep control of Walvis Bay

From Nicholas Ashford

Walvis Bay, May 12.

It is hard to believe just by looking at Walvis Bay that this scruffy South Atlantic port is likely to prove the most difficult and controversial issue in the future discussions concerning the independence of Namibia (South-West Africa).

The South African Government has made it plain that whoever may eventually come to power in Windhoek—be it the members of the South African-sponsored Turnhalle conference or the nationalist South-West African People's Organization (Swapo)—it intends to retain control of Walvis Bay, the territory's only deepwater port.

The South Africans feel it is far too important to hand over to an independent black government any significant portion of the territory's economy.

Legally, the port and the surrounding 425 square miles of sand are part of South Africa. The enclave was annexed by the British 98 years ago, handed over to the Cape Colony in 1854 and became incorporated with South Africa after the Act of Union in 1910.

The South African Government, for ever fearful of Soviet expansionist intentions in southern Africa, believes the Russians have also noted the importance of Walvis Bay as an integral part of Namibia.

Legally, the port has damaged many of the Turnhalle's inhabitants, even the "independents" of the Turnhalle. They point out that not only is it their only port, but the fishing industry is the territory's most important source of revenue after minerals.

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OVERSEAS

Quebec plan to drive away firms doing business in English

From Fred Emery
Quebec City, May 12

Quebec's new secessionist leaders are clearly exhilarated with the rising din of the battle of words they have provoked with the rest of Canada. Better exhaust now the bitterness of quarrelling, they reason, than proceed in calm with the divorce and arrangements for some post-marital association.

Their new "charter" of the French language, enforcing a new "unilingualism" upon businesses and everyday life, is the immediate cause of outrage to the large English-speaking minority in Quebec, not to speak of the rest of Canada. It is due to become law in the autumn.

The charter clearly seeks to acquire the attributes of a sovereign state before the fact—for the referendum on independence is to come much later on. The charter's chief sponsor and advocate, M. Camille Laurin, said as much in an interview with me here—in French, of course. He said it was "legitimate and normal" for big firms in Quebec—just as in Switzerland, France, Mexico or Belgium—to be required to do their Quebec-related business entirely in the official language, namely French. As for business conducted outside Quebec, that could continue in English with special arrangements provided for staff conducting such business.

M. Laurin, who is Minister of State for Cultural Development, appears to enjoy his polemics. Asked about a recent suggestion that the country's largest bank, the Royal Bank of Canada, might choose to move its headquarters out of Quebec rather than face the total "francification" of its operations, M. Laurin came close to saying "good riddance". Perhaps that would give him a chance to work on the Bank of Montreal", he said. Perhaps some American bank would seize the opening. "After all, we are in an open market."

As for small English-Canadian family firms which would probably have difficulty mastering French in all their detailed dealings, they would probably have to leave Quebec, he said.

Economic damage was "possible", he conceded. "Somewhat chaotic" dislocation might occur in temporary fashion; but the Quebec Government was confident that its people wanted cultural, political and economic autonomy and were willing to pay some price. After a transition the whole situation might be better in 15 or 20 years than it was now.

More government control of UN agency urged

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, May 12

The Soviet Union has called for greater political control over the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep). Speaking at Unep's annual governing council meeting in progress here, Dr Boris Miroshnikov, the Soviet delegate, urged

greater concentration of Unep activities with all projects being approved by the government.

He said this would mean a more positive role for the government representatives of member countries.

Miss Parry Mink, head of the United States delegation, today proposed a reduction in the environment fund's target for the next five years—from about \$83,200,000 proposed by Unep, to about \$76,500,000. This was a more realistic figure, she said.

M. Christian Girard of

Poachers leave death trail in Tanzanian parks

Dar es Salaam, May 12—Poachers slaughtered more than 30,000 animals every year in Tanzania's national parks, according to an official report.

The report, compiled by the National Parks Division in Arusha, northern Tanzania, said the situation in all 10 national parks was "very bad". Last year 469 poachers were arrested and more than 2,000 traps seized.

It indicated the extent of elephant slaughter by stating that 91 tusks were picked up at various places in the Ruaha national parks alone last year.—Agence France-Presse.

Australian pledge of laws to restore airline links

Adelaide, May 12—Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, announced today that Parliament would be recalled on Monday to pass special emergency legislation if the country's three hundred air traffic controllers voted tomorrow to continue their six-day strike.

Mr Fraser made the announcement after a six-hour Cabinet meeting called to decide Government action on the dispute which has stranded nearly 50,000 airline passengers overseas and in Australia.

Mr Nixon said 27,600 international passengers were waiting to leave Australia and 20,500 were waiting abroad to return to the country.

Mr Nixon said the government was negotiating with the striking controllers' union for additional international passengers who are on strike for a 36 per cent salary rise. He appealed

SPORT

Racing

York going decides for Bright Finish

By Michael Seely

Bright Finish gave a forecast of thrills to come when winning the York Stakes yesterday afternoon.

At 100-30 odds, the colt, owned by Old Bill, Bright Finish was fully extended to beat Grey Baron by a neck. But last year's Jockey Club winner started coughing in March and Jeremy Tree has been able to give him any work only in the past three weeks.

The going was a decisive factor in the race, as the track was immediately under the far rails, seems to be riding lengths faster than the rest of the track. Just over a mile from home, Piggyback, a Bright Finish opponent, had already crossed this vital stretch. Ridden along tenderly, Bright Finish repelled the attack of Swell Fellow below the distance. Finally, he had to resist the determined onslaught of Grey Baron, who must have been hopelessly rocked against the fence before Lewis could extricate him to deliver a challenge.

Bright Finish, by far the best-looking colt I have yet seen sired by a stallion I have not seen, Nijinsky, is clearly destined to reach high rank as a stud. So now we have the exciting prospect of two Nijinsky sons at the Ascot Gold Cup. And what a race of will will be assembled at the royal meeting on Thursday, June 16. Segaro, a convincing winner of this race in the past two years, is another colt who has recently twice claimed Souter in France, the rechristened Brum and now Bright Finish. All four promise to make this the highest class Gold Cup seen for years.

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Voters would not be crudely asked whether they were for or against separation. They would be asked what they felt was closest to them—the Quebec Government or the Federal Government in Ottawa. Difficulties caused to them by federal policies would be amply demonstrated; so would the advantages of the Government's "social democracy".

Of course, if the rest of Canada was simply prepared to scrap the present federation and form some "new regime" freely granting Quebec the sovereignty it wanted, then there did not have to be a referendum; M. Laurin said. But that seemed unlikely. "We are not ready to let go the prey for the shadow."

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The Growth of Crime, by Sir Leon Radzinowicz and Joan King, makes an international comparative examination of crime and law enforcements—of police and sentencing, prison, punishment and rehabilitation—in order to see what has been tried, what works, and what does not. In these condensed extracts from the book, which is to be published by Hamish Hamilton on May 26, price £6.95, the authors assess the role of juvenile gangs and estimate the volume of unrecorded crime. Sir Leon Radzinowicz is a leading international authority on crime, and a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Joan King is senior assistant in research at the Cambridge Institute of Criminology.

How bad are teenage gangs?

Gang delinquency among the young has attracted publicity less because of its novelty than because of its drama. After all, bands of marauding youngsters were recorded in fourteenth century France. Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* shows the youthful members of rival families and their hangers-on roaming the streets and sparring for a fight. In eighteenth century Britain, complaints were recorded of "bold-faced adolescents insolent, unbridled, mocking the laws of morality and humanity, taking pleasure in scandalizing the respectable, infiltrating crowds and reliving them of their purses". Nineteenth century cities like New York, Paris, London, Berlin and Glasgow could all produce accounts of groups of boys wandering the streets, living by pilfering from shops or stealing from passers-by. Dickens immortalized the Artful Dodger and his mates in *Oliver Twist*. People like Mary Carpenter and Dr Barnardo tried to rescue them. Mayhem documented their background careers and activities.

International infection, stimulation and imitation, with the United States as instigator, laboratory, and example have been special features of modern fashions in juvenile gangs as in so much else. Gang delinquency, so called, has made its mark around the world and in all kinds of societies. The *blousons noirs* of the 1950s and 1960s appeared in Paris and Brussels and even more, even in stolid Switzerland. Germany had her *hooligans*. In Italy there have been the *vittorari*, in Poland and Russia the *hoohigans*, in Australia the *bodges and wedges*, in Japan the *menbo*. In South Africa there has been a sub-species for each colour: the black *torito*, the white *duktails*, the coloured *skylly*.

Taiwan and the Philippines had youthful groups distinguished by class: upper-crust students indulging in delinquencies connected with cars, movies and other modern inventions, and lower-class boys going in for traditional crime. Greece, Israel, and Argentina, with their very different backgrounds, have not escaped. Even China had her Red Guards, a political instrument, perhaps, an instrument that soon threatened to get out of hand.

There is always something very menacing in the gang-up of young men against their elders or each other, a kind of primitive fear that encourages us to exaggerate the dangers they present, the harm they do. Recently, in schools, on subways and on the streets, there have been nasty incidents of unprovoked violence. Police have had to be stationed in the corridors of many schools in New York. Yet it is easy to exaggerate the threat.

Though the tradition is persistent, individual gangs are evanescent, mere bubbles in the current. None, in real life, have survived as long as *West Side*

Story has on stage. Take the succession in England (in only 12 years or so) of *Teddy boys*, *Rockers*, *Mods*, *Skinheads*, and now the occasional bunch of Hell's Angels and the ubiquitous football hooligans—each with their own distinctive habits of dress, hairstyles, attitudes, outlook, and emphasis. In Europe and further afield, the young labourers known as *blousons noirs* (the word is widely used) have adopted the very different prouesses with their mixed class backgrounds, ages and sexes, their propaganda, and their claims to ideological justification. It had been the same in the United States: the headlines one year, obsolescence the next.

And even during their brief period of life, the vast majority of juvenile groups are not anything like as cohesive, as purposeful, or as committed to violence or delinquency as they are popularly pictured. Among most delinquents there is far more talk than action, far more theft than violence. After spending two years in intensive observation of seven or so tough groups of teenagers, a plain-lum one investigator concluded that "The average weekend of highway driving in and around Midcity produces more serious bodily injury than two years of violent crimes by Midcity teens". Nevertheless, sociologists have been especially fascinated by the phenomenon of group delinquency, which has been at the focus of much of their effort to understand juvenile

crime. Some, noting the elements of sheer destructiveness in the behaviour involved have argued that those who feel rejected by the adult world of teachers and employers, revenge themselves by reversing adult values, attacking property precisely because their elders set such store by it, attacking children they think guilty, body-painting, breaking windows, trashing the world of accepted values of the adult world of adopting, etc., as a form of self-justification by criminal law.

Others, however, have adopted the line that such youths are simply seizing the opportunities open to them, just as more fortunate boys take advantage of the opportunities of legitimate education and occupation.

Thus if the youths live in neighbourhoods where adult crime flourishes, they will imitate it—hoping, if they do well, eventually to become absorbed into professional crime. If they live in neighbourhoods so squalid that even the criminals are failures, they will seek out other fighting and violence. If they cannot make it either as criminals or fighters, says this outlook, they will fall back on drugs. Disappointingly, none of these neat explanations has been verified, the search for real-life gangs that would fit them has so far failed, even in the United States.

Researchers in other countries who have tried to find parallels report an equal lack of success.

Facing the evidence that boys drift in and out of gangs and in and out of



A group of Skinheads

Crimes we never hear about

During the past two or three decades criminologists, especially in the United States, Scandinavia and Germany, have been making systematic attempts to measure and analyse the dark figures of crime, the proportions of people who have locked away in their past offences quite unknown to the authorities or, if known, passed over.

There are several ways of trying to find out. Groups of ordinary people (in practice it has usually been schoolchildren, students, or military recruits, since these are the easiest to get hold of) have been asked to indicate, in the strictest confidence, whether they have been guilty of certain actions which, if discovered, could have brought them before the courts.

Obviously there must be reservations about this kind of approach. Such researches cannot cover the whole gamut of offences, and they often include quite trivial delinquencies such as truancy. The investigator who thinks he can elicit the same searching of the past, and the conscience as the priest or the psychiatrist deludes himself. It is he who is the client, who is seeking help, and there is no reason why those he approaches should try very hard to make their answers accurate or complete.

Even if something is discounted, however, the findings remain startling, particularly as they have been very similar in different countries and situations. On the basis of their own admissions, it appears that a very few admit the guilt of law-breaking at all. And several of the studies show that well over half confessed to at least one crime for which, if they had been convicted as adults, they could have been sent to prison. Of these people only about one in 10 may have been brought to book, and not more than three in every 100 of their crimes known to the police. On the other hand, there is some evidence that the matter of whether or not a delinquent comes to the notice of the law is not purely one of chance. From one long-term investigation of juvenile development it emerged that boys

brought before the courts, especially the repeated offenders, tended from their peers in both social and personal respects to measure up to the dark figures.

The method of direct observation has likewise demonstrated that apparently law-abiding people of both sexes and from all walks of life will break the rules, given enough temptation and a good chance of getting away with it. For example, one in every 15 customers shadowed around big stores in the United States (one in every 12 in New York) was seen to take something without paying. And out of 100 of these thieves only one was apprehended by the large staffs of store detectives.

An obvious alternative to questioning or watching the perpetrators is to ask the victims. Again, the most accessible have been the first to be probed: institutions and businesses which might keep their own records of thefts by their employees, even though they did not report them to the police. Germany has seen a series of fascinating investigations of crime-concealments by big organizations. In the Post Office it was found that less than half the thefts committed were reported to their administrators and even then a third of the offenders were not prosecuted. In the electrical industry a third of the employees guilty of offences were merely cautioned, a third dismissed, and only a tenth reported to the police. Then there are the kinds of business that are robbed not only by their employees but also by their customers.

Like questioning people about their delinquencies, this rather haphazard investigation of losses and concealed in particular organisations serves to confirm that hidden offences are expected, is variable. New York and Sydney, for example, turned out, on this basis, to have at least twice as much crime as was reported; Los Angeles, Chicago, and Detroit three times as much; Philadelphia (whose former police chief has been suspected of deliberate falsification of records) five times as much. But the general picture is similar: Something like twice as many burglaries and major thefts; and two, three, or four times as many robberies as reported. In the United States researchers uncovered five times as many minor thefts as were recorded. In Sydney they found, in addition, almost eight times as many cases of mischief and arson, nine times as many sex offences short of rape, and 13 times as many assaults.

The launching of these inquiries, supported by departments of justice, is to be welcomed. So is the decision to put them on a regular footing and publish them along with the statistics of offences recorded by the police. They have special value in reflecting not only the prevalence of crime but the public response to it. Their results have been startling. I am convinced, however, that they are still underestimates. Many of the reasons which keep people from reporting crimes to the police will also influence them here. In addition there is evidence that in response to later questions, people are less likely to exaggerate than to forget or omit. There remains a long way to go in probing the extent of hidden crime.

I would give considerable weight to the estimates of those who have spent many years in the administration of criminal justice. Police, prosecutors, lawyers and judges. Their assessments may not be for themselves, but they have the feel of the thing, an intuition based on accumulated experience. The experience is inevitably biased, but they come straight from the horse's mouth, and I find them more persuasive than most. One estimate, based on statistics of repeated crimes and analyses of individual cases, was made in the 1950s by a German chief of police, published under the authority of their Central Office of Crime Detection and never contradicted since. In fact, the last publication issued on behalf of that office, dealing especially with economic crime, seems to more than confirm his modest estimation. He set the ratio of actual to gross with the problem of the unknown to the known in Germany

The pattern of findings, as might be

expected, is variable. New York and Sydney, for example, turned out, on this basis, to have at least twice as much crime as was reported; Los Angeles, Chicago, and Detroit three times as much; Philadelphia (whose former police chief has been suspected of deliberate falsification of records) five times as much. But the general picture is similar: Something like twice as many burglaries and major thefts; and two, three, or four times as many robberies as reported. In the United States researchers uncovered five times as many minor thefts as were recorded. In Sydney they found, in addition, almost eight times as many cases of mischief and arson, nine times as many sex offences short of rape, and 13 times as many assaults.

Mr Anthony Beeson, chairman of the potato committee of the National Federation of Fruit and Potato Traders, said that the home crop would be late, but looked healthy. "I think that towards the end of June a price of 6p a pound for bacon is realistic", he added.

Prices look more favourable on

potatoes now that temperatures are rising. Wholesalers said yesterday that

they expect a rise in the summer weather

there might be a glut of potatoes later in the year.

Keymarkers decided yesterday to

charge an extra 2p a pound for hocks and collar while Fine Fare will add 1p to middle, back and streaky and 2p to end cuts. One retail provisions buyer said sorrowfully that the continuing increases might eliminate the thriving trade for bacon which has

been established painstakingly in the past six months after years of decline. "I think we are going straight back to this time last year," he added.

Bacon is handled by one of the most notorious sections of the food trade in which pig farmers feel exploited by cutters who believe in turn that they protect farmers from consumer resistance to rising prices. Grocers consider that constant wrangling and feuding price policies among cutters ruin the trade for everyone else.

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His religious fanaticism would seem more at home in the Bible belt of America

Mr Paisley: this unholy alliance with Ulster's men of violence

Belfast

During the last 10 disturbing and often violent days most of the words used by ordinary Ulstermen to describe the Rev Ian Paisley have been unprintable. Politicians and government officials have been more restrained for public consumption, and "bully" has been the most frequent term of abuse.

Defined by the Penguin English Dictionary as "blustering ruffian", the description catches perfectly the outward persona of the MP for Antrim North, but it does nothing to convey the religious fanaticism that is an essential element in his character and has coloured the atmosphere surrounding the attempt to coerce the population into a general strike.

That was best conveyed earlier this week in the market town of Ballymena, an un-inspiring and unfriendly spot which is the spiritual home of Mr Paisley's self-styled Free Presbyterian Church. And bastion of his undoubted support among the province's most extreme loyalists.

Adopting his own peculiar blend of religion and politics, which smacks more of the seventeenth century than anything readily associated with the modern world, Mr Paisley launched into a typical piece of oratory to the crowds blocking the streets with an evil-smelling assortment of farm machinery.

"Here we are in this town and the hour is grave. The day is dark, the tide has come in like a flood. There are men here who are determined to break us determined to break the will of the Ulster people and stamp them into the ground," he said. "O, God, give us great deliverance. O, God, deliver Ulster. We pray that you bend the heart of Mason, we pray that you bring that man down from his lofty throne and we pray that he cannot set himself against the ordinary people of Ulster and get away with it."

Divine intervention failed to take place, and just less than 24 hours Mr Paisley had been arrested for obstruction — he voters.



Mr Paisley: rigid Calvinist beliefs appear to have clouded his political judgment

was released later — and the farmers' blockade dispersed after a serious clash with more than 200 British soldiers had been narrowly avoided.

But the speech, the imagery and the willingness shamelessly to invoke God which has shocked many staunch Protestants, helps to explain why Mr Paisley has suddenly embarked on a course that appears to have isolated him from all but an extreme minority of loyalist

preachers, who are frequently attacking on so-called Papists and all who might appear to advocate compromise, would be more at home in the Bible belt of America than any church on the British mainland.

It was a little known establishment in South Carolina, the Bob Jones University of Greenville, which 11 years ago conferred the honorary doctorate of divinity on Mr Paisley, only two days after his release from the first of his two spells in prison for taking part in street disturbances.

A willing outsider from Ulster's religious and political establishment, Mr Paisley appears to have allowed his rigid Calvinist beliefs to cloud his political judgment about the feasibility of a strike to bring back majority rule to Stormont.

Extricating one strand of his personality from the other is almost impossible, but reactionary Protestantism of the

most puritanical nature is one factor that unites the ragbag of parochial leaders, politicians and factory workers that makes up the United Unionist Action Council.

The religious element in the strike has apparently enabled Mr Paisley to gain a blind eye to the vicious intimidation carried out daily in his name, and often encouraged by his rabble-rousing speeches to demagogic meetings in all parts of Northern Ireland. Every time the omens and stirrings of the press conferences held by the Ulster leaders have always (to the amazement of foreign journalists) begun with a session of prayer led by one of Mr Paisley's ministers.

The council, in keeping with Foreign Presbyterian ideology, has refused to meet on a Sunday and some of the most dangerous confrontations with the security forces have been preceded by an aggressive round of communal hymn singing.

Mr Paisley's unholy alliance with the self-confessed thugs who form Ulster's Protestant private armies was potentially the most dangerous combination of forces existing in a society already sadly corrupted by seven contentious years of violence. The convincing style of its rejection by the mass of the Protestant community has provided some political observers with hope for the future. This cautious optimism has been fortified by Mr Paisley's rash promise at an early stage of the campaign to retire from politics if it failed.

But those few who know the man well believe there is precious little chance that he will honour his commitment and withdraw completely from the struggle to turn back history and restore Ulster's majority to its dominant position.

"The very best we can hope is that he will retreat temporarily to his pulpit," one of his many political opponents said yesterday. "But even there he will still continue to represent the unacceptable face of Unionism."

Christopher Walker

Bernard Levin

Speak of the devil, and hands up who doesn't like iron oxide?

Headaches and dizziness, flushing of the face and pains in the back.
It's the way I sometimes feel on a Monday morning.

It is reported that exorcists have been called to a school in Malaysia, following the fact that Saccharated Iron Oxide, which is (naturally) given for the same purposes as saccharated ferrous carbonate, with a slightly chalybeate taste (my own galate, admittedly sensitive to an exceptional degree), has always persuaded me that the chalybeate taste is more properly described as pronounced than as sharp, but I would not wish to hold things up by quibbling; it is used in the treatment of iron-deficiency anaemia, by intravenous injection.

Of course, there is no rest without thorn, and I take it that you will be equally familiar with the knowledge that the intravenous injection of iron oxide, be it never so saccharated, tends to be followed by headache, dizziness, flushing of the face, nausea and vomiting, pains in the back and legs, dyspepsia, bronchospasm and fever; this, I may say in passing, certainly accounts for the way I sometimes feel on a Monday morning, for it is apparent that ill-disposed persons have been in the habit of entering my bedroom and shoving quantities of saccharated iron oxide into me; it does, however, make one wonder why a course of treatment is still recommended and undertaken when it seems to relieve the sufferer of the ailment that constitutes it out at the cost of giving him a variety of additional afflictions to which a pouch of iron-deficiency anaemia might seem considerably preferable.

Be that as it may, there is only one more item of supererogatory information about iron oxide that I must present for my account to be complete—

complete, indeed, to the point of nausea and vomiting, if not pains in the back, dyspepsia, bronchospasm and fever—and that is the news that iron oxide is on the list of officially approved colouring matters that may be used in the preparation of food, under the terms of the Colouring Matter in Food Regulations 1966 and the Colouring Matter in Food (Scotland) Regulations 1966, along with alkanet, annatto, carotene, chlorophyll, flaxseed, indigo, orchid, osage orange, onion, paprika, safflower, saffron, sandalwood, turmeric, bole, titanium dioxide and ultramarine, nor, forgering silver, gold or aluminium in leaf or powder form, these last only being permitted (of course) for the external colouring of dragees and the decoration of sugar-coated flour confectionery.

Now if you have followed me thus far, and not succumbed to headache, dizziness and flushing of the face, or even pains in the back, and

display of exposed timberwork, decided to go outside again to look for something more attractive to eat.

The room capable of seating 140 or more, has been handsomely furnished with solid hardwood tables and rustic-seated chairs, but the management has not yet provided a self-service counter at which customers can rest their trays while choosing their teas.

The ham rolls (20p) were doughy, and skimpily filled, the scones (14p with butter) flat and uninteresting. The fruit cake was anaemic of complexion and far too sweet. Tea, poured in brown mugs, was 12p, and portion-packed jam 4p.

The unimaginative spread was distinctly disappointing for such a setting but the fact that an ante-room still had the workers in may mean that more adequate provision is to be made shortly. At any rate we must hope the EEC foreign ministers get something a bit more special.

All in all our survey suggested that "stately" home owners and administrators are only just beginning to take the matter of feeding their visitors seriously.

At Leeds Castle, in Lord Conwy's opinion the most beautiful in the world, the newly-admitted visitors tend to reel a little at the cost—60p for the grounds and a further 50p for the house. And, when we visited, several people, looking inside the tearoom in a Jacobean barn with an impressive

display of exposed timberwork, decided to go outside again to look for something more attractive to eat.

Hare and Hound, who are knowledgeable in country matters, surprised me by advertising: "Moleskin trousers. 100 per cent cotton."

Doubtful

I am grateful to the incomparable scribbler, Sean Crozier, MP for Rotherham, for a ditty with which to celebrate Peter Jay's appointment to Washington. It goes, as says to the tune of the old Cockney music hall song, *All me life I wanted to be a harrier-boy*:

All me life I wanted to be an ambassador.

An ambassador I always wanted to be my diplomacy with lots of family pride,

For I'm a son-in-law, a son-in-law.

From over the other side, I turn my back upon The Times with pleasure.

Take me where the biggest peanuts grow!

Got my foot upon the starter, For I love Jimmy Carter, I ought to have been an ambassador years ago!

Exit left trippingly, twirling cane, and raising straw-boater with a grin.

Unneighbourly

Friends of the Earth, the environmental conservationists, are the target of criticism from some of their neighbours in a building they share with eight other pressure groups and charities in Soho.

Peking has at last entered the field of international tourism. A unique colour supplement in English in the leading Hong Kong Communist daily, *Ta Kung Pao*, invites foreign travellers to make half-day tours in China. Recommended routes concentrate on Canton and Kwangtung, provinces which borders Hongkong, but selected groups of tourists

There is no substitute for a good ambassador

With Peter Jay's appointment to Washington, ambassadors may reasonably be said to be in the news again. They are frequently sent to the armouries of those proto-radicals and cigar-laden iconoclasts who make up the United Unionist Action Council.

The religious element in the strike has apparently enabled Mr Paisley to gain a blind eye to the vicious intimidation carried out daily in his name, and often encouraged by his rabble-rousing speeches to demagogic meetings in all parts of Northern Ireland. Every time the omens and stirrings of the press conferences held by the Ulster leaders have always (to the amazement of foreign journalists) begun with a session of prayer led by one of Mr Paisley's ministers.

Some shy or highly individual ambassadors succeed in cultivating a few key people, a few, in their last posts, having obviously lost their edge. Some are clearly overfed. Some diplomats are not impressed. Many diplomats are congenitally weary.

But it is simplistic to assume that in this day of instant telecommunications and fast jets, an ambassador is an unnecessary luxury. A good ambassador is an important asset, and most positive British ambassadors in Washington have been good, with Lords Franks, Sheffield, Cecilia and Harlech perhaps outstanding.

In some ways the ambassadors' field has grown rather than shrunk. Governments are extending their activities into more and more fields; their decisions are becoming increasingly enmeshed with international considerations.

In addition to straight diplomatic issues like Rhodesia or the Middle East, an ambassador to Washington is likely to find himself involved in issues like Concorde's landing rights, a defence deal, an IMF loan, or a row between the EEC and the United States.

But those few who know the man well believe there is precious little chance that he will honour his commitment and withdraw completely from the struggle to turn back history and restore Ulster's majority to its dominant position.

"The very best we can hope is that he will retreat temporarily to his pulpit," one of his many political opponents said yesterday. "But even there he will still continue to represent the unacceptable face of Unionism."

Christopher Walker

Your normal bilateral ambassador should be fully informed of the whole range of policy of his host country, especially where it affects British interests. He must interpret his country to Britain, and vice versa, know the leading local personalities, and it is possible speak the language. He should not, as some ambassadors do, think he owns his seat while neglecting their real interests.

Some shy or highly individual ambassadors succeed in cultivating a few key people, a few, in their last posts, having obviously lost their edge. Some are clearly overfed. Some diplomats are not impressed. Many diplomats are congenitally weary.

The Foreign Service is evidently imperfect, some posts are clearly overfed. Some diplomats are not impressed. Many diplomats are congenitally weary.

A good ambassador will have met a visiting British minister at the airport, give him a crisp briefing on the drive in the embassy, with judicious advice on how the minister's mission can best be fulfilled, then lay on a dinner at which his own good relations with his guests, who will include the relevant minister and/or leading personalities, make a useful contribution.

Making the experts jump

Take a country like Venezuela, which is a founding member of Opec, the world's largest oil exporter, one of Latin America's five genuine parliamentary democracies, numbers 14 in the world's diplomatic hierarchy. "North-South" dialogue. Mr John (Jack) Taylor went there as ambassador in 1975, with a high reputation.

He constructed a framework of Anglo-Venezuelan cooperation involving culture, education and political contacts as well as commercial ones (Brazil's share of imports has gone to three per cent). Five British ministers have been to Venezuela since Venezuela joined the Commonwealth. British MPs have been to Caracas, and the Venezuelan government has sent 1,300 students to Britain in two years. British exports jumped from £40m in 1974 to £130m last year. Mutual comprehension and esteem have soared.

Being an ambassador should be an important job, and increasingly it is being done by "operational" rather than "representational" ambassadors. It is now Foreign Office policy to promote the high flyers as young as is compatible with overall morale. Mr John Thompson recently became High Commissioner in New Delhi at 49. Mr Anthony Alcock is ambassador in Madrid at 47. There will be more such appointments, balanced by discreet premature retirement at the top, and Mr Taylor's replacement as ambassador to India next year will be a British official in his late 50s.

Intelligence, or at least the impression of intelligence, is required, especially in international organizations like the United Nations, the EEC or Nato, where negotiating ability and a forceful personality are also necessary.

Roger Berthoud



The British Embassy in Washington: a good postwar record

which have friendly contacts with China, or agree to let foreign travel agents do business relations with China. "International Travel Service" is the supplement states.

Foreign tourists during their stay in China will have opportunities to visit factories, people's communes, schools, hospitals, memorial sites from revolution, historical relics as well as famous scenic spots. There is no indication of restrictions on nationality but international tourist agents in Hongkong say that the British will be specially favoured.

In 1973 the Chinese began to build modern hotels in Canton, Peking, Kunming and in the beautiful West Lake area of Hangzhou. After groups of Chinese officials and hotel managers had visited Hongkong to study tourist facilities there, Foreign cruise ships are also being permitted to enter Chinese territorial waters for the first time since 1950.

This is the last Diary compiled by Michael Leighton's former chief, Alan Hamilton. They paid their successors well with the column which resumes on Tuesday.

PHS

The Times Diary

Ignoble rolls, inglorious sandwiches

To conclude our series on the state of refreshments in the stately homes of Britain, Alan Hamilton visited Woburn Abbey while Robin Young went to Leeds Castle in advance of the EEC foreign ministers who meet there later this month.

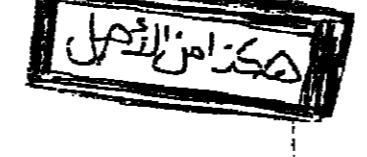
For Woburn we already had a reader's recommendation of the waitress-service Oak and Pine restaurant in the Abbey grounds, but we chose instead the self-service Flying Duchess buffet, which in its design and furnishings is reminiscent of a motorway service station, although with a superior touch of original Gien cartoons on the walls.

It was early in the day and almost deserted, so service was instant. Simple hot meals with chips are on the menu, but the main fare is foil-wrapped sandwiches, scones and buns, pre-packed pies, and small selection of cakes which appeared to be frozen. Another antorwary much was the paper cups and plates (with Jubilee design) and plastic cutlery.

We had a ham sandwich (20p) in non-oast-fresh brown bread, a rather dry sponge (12p), a rather flavorless cheesecake (30p), two coffees (15p each) which, although real, were muddy and nondescript, and a glass of raspberry juice (14p) which the 4-year-old juice taster declared to be "nasty". Total bill for two adults and a child was £1.14, which seemed reasonable.

Service was friendly and cheerful, and the place was clean, although a slight smell of chip fat larked in the air. Altogether adequate, but nothing to write home about. Entrance to the ground is only 50p per car, but many of the attractions within cost extra.

At Leeds Castle, in Lord Conwy's opinion the most beautiful in the world, the newly-admitted visitors tend to reel a little at the cost—60p for the grounds and a further 50p for the house. And, when we visited, several people, looking inside the tearoom in a Jacobean barn with an impressive



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THE REALITY OF PRESSURE

While President Carter's main task on his visit to Europe was to give a new lead to the West as a whole, and to infuse its economic and military strategy with a new definition and sense of purpose, he found time also to do a little diplomatic work on both of the two fastest local conflicts of the eastern Mediterranean, each of which in its own way is potentially very damaging to the West. He flew to Geneva to meet President Assad of Syria, who is entering more and more as the key figure in a possible settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict; and while in London he had separate bilateral meetings with the Prime Ministers of Greece and Turkey—two NATO countries which have already allowed their private quarrel to take precedence over their sense of belonging to a larger Atlantic community or free world.

Although Greece and Turkey are members of NATO while Israel and the Arab states are not, the problems which these two conflicts present for American policy are to some extent parallel. The Middle East in recent years has become increasingly an American sphere of influence, and America now has strategic interests there at least as great as those in south-east Europe. And since 1974 public sympathy for Greece, or at least for the Greek case in Cyprus, has grown in the United States to the point where it is comparable to public sympathy for Israel. The pro-Greek and pro-Israel lobbies in Congress are about equally strong, and indeed largely overlap (though based on separate but equally vocal ethnic communities), while strategic considerations have made successive American governments increasingly reluctant to take sides openly against either Turkey or the Arab states.

It is thus almost inevitable that American governments will come into conflict sooner or later with the Greek and Israeli peoples. The conflict was perhaps sharpened in the case of the last administration by the fact that the Democratic Party (then in opposition, but in a majority in the Senate) was able to pass legislation which would have imposed economic sanctions on Turkey if it had not been overridden by the Carter administration. The Israeli Government, likewise, can see that Mr Carter's

support for the idea of "a homeland for the Palestinians", has rapidly forged friendship with Arab leaders, even his vetoing of the sale of Israeli aircraft containing American components to Ecuador, do not imply any lessening of his support for the existence of Israel or any unwillingness to provide Israel with all the weapons and technology she needs to defend that existence. Both Mr Vance and Mr Alloue reiterated this after their meeting in London on Wednesday. Indeed the Israeli Government, like Mr Karamanlis in Greece, is visibly irritated by attacks on the United States in its domestic press—but because such attacks are intended to undermine the domestic political standing of the respective governments (both strongly pro-American) and because such attacks may encourage the adversary (Turk or Arab) in his turn to expect too much from Mr Carter and thus stiffen his resistance or his demands.

The parallel can only be pushed so far. At a certain point it has to be reversed. For after all Israel, like Turkey, is occupying land beyond its recognized frontiers and it is likewise Israel which is the Arabs that is most vulnerable to American pressure. Mr Carter's support for Israel's existence should not be doubted, but it is increasingly obvious that the "suggestions" he will eventually come up with for a solution of the Middle East conflict will be similar to the Rogers plan of 1969, involving withdrawal by Israel to its pre-1967 frontiers with only minor alterations. Almost any unprejudiced observer will agree that this is a price Israel must be prepared to pay for peace. Yet he has also said that he does not expect this to happen in the immediate future and has stressed (while avoiding any explicit "linkage") the importance of a settlement in Cyprus. The Turks are thus given the chance to make the necessary concessions in Cyprus without giving way to open American pressure. But the pressure is unmistakably there.

The Israeli Government, likewise, can see that Mr Carter's

THE MINERS' SMALL STEP FORWARD

While the Government plans to invest thousands of millions in the coal industry of the future, and favours tax relief for the unwanted Drax B power station partly to provide a "consumer" of the anticipated harvest of coal production and productivity in the mines remain paradoxically stagnant. When the promised early retirement scheme begins, there is even a possibility that the production will fall as sharp as it should have been rising. The two-pronged theme to provide incentives for higher productivity has been a failure, as it always seemed likely to be. The price of coal has not risen as much as it competitive advantage over other fuels has. It seemed sure to be the time of oil crisis. The rapidly increasing public cost of the proposed investment in new mines is bound to come increasingly in question if the performance of the industry does not improve. Yesterday's endorsement by the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers of a union working party's plan for a more effective productivity scheme is a small step toward a decision that would be of great significance to the industry. It may be, as it happens, be of most equal importance for the future of incomes policy this coming year. For reasons

that have as much to do with the battle over the social contract as with issues inside the industry, the plan is sharply opposed by members on the left of the union, although they did not feel strong enough to force a vote yesterday.

In 1974 the miners turned down in a ballot a productivity scheme proposed by the National Coal Board. The union's leaders had had a considerable share in drawing it up, but they were divided over its merits and finally recommended rejection. Left-wingers declared that the plan, which would have distributed the rewards of higher productivity in the pits, where it was achieved instead of throughout the industry, threatened workers' solidarity and might tempt the greedy into taking risks. There is an ingrained suspicion in the industry of anything reminiscent of the old piecework system. But as the past two years have shown, solidarity cuts little coal.

Similar arguments are being pressed again, but this time, more at stake than miners' bonuses. According to Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the NCB, a scheme similar to the one rejected in 1974 would, on average, have made miners £20 a week better off today than

they are in fact. The union is setting its sights on increases of about that order next year, and has little patience with any talk of phase three. The only chance the Government has of satisfying the miners without effectively lifting constraints on everyone else is to include provision for productivity deals of the kind required. Correspondingly, opponents of phase three have an interest in persuading the union to reject a deal.

The Government's tactics are precarious. It stresses that if an exception were to be made for productivity schemes, it would need to be restricted strictly to agreements that paid for themselves in higher efficiency. Sir Derek is sure that the miners would. But if it did not, who would tell them that they had forfeited their bonuses?

In addition, the existing rule against having pay rises more often than once a year (which Mr Healey hopes to see survive) would on the face of it prevent the miners from enjoying their bonuses until next March. The union would press for this August. A phase three agreement written to find room for all these possibilities promises to be a cloudy document, as likely to spur the ingenuity of union negotiators as to discourage excessive claims.

the first past-the-post system, and, by clear implication, that we are to think that Mr Jay is too scared to be asked to use anything else.

During recent years we have had to come to terms with decimalisation, inflation, and ever increasing array of increasingly complicated forms of taxation, social security, benefits, travel, insurance etcetera ad nauseam. Yet, we are told, we will not understand one or other form of voting under proportional representation, and in our miserable ignorance, we will stay away from the polls in droves.

This entire line of thinking constitutes an outrageous insult, and one which I counsel fellow Conservatives to eradicate immediately from their Euro-political vocabulary.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN GRIERSON,
14 Markham Square, SW3.
May 5.

Cambridge Society

From Mrs D. M. Lennies

Sir, The Oxford Society is delighted to see in *The Times* today (May 3) that a Cambridge Society has now been launched, and would like to wish them luck. They may be encouraged to know that when the Oxford Society was founded, just 45 years ago, there was some uneasiness expressed at asking for subscriptions "in the stringent economic circumstances existing at this time"; when, in fact, the life subscription was only two-thirds of what the Cambridge Society is now obliged to set as the current annual subscription. Here's to the next 45 years for both societies.

Yours faithfully,
DAPHNE LENNIES,
Secretary of the Oxford Society,
8 Wellington Square,
Oxford.
May 3.

Voting for Europe

From Mr John Grierson

Sir, In common with a great many British Europeans, I am less concerned about the method of electing MEPs than I am about making certain we have an election next year. For this first exercise in direct elections, any method is going to be preferable to none at all—and we will then have the best part of four years within which to decide how best to fall into line with our partners in the European Community.

Yours sincerely,
P. N. CAMPBELL,
51 Lansdowne Tower,
Battersea, SE11.
May 11.

As a complete outsider, I do not help feelings that the decision to close the Victoria and Albert Museum on one day each week in order to achieve economies imposed by the Government is symptomatic of a serious defect in methods. I support economic public expenditure but here, as in London, a great treasure should be open to as many of our visitors as possible for as long as possible.

The obvious solution to the present problem is to make a large-scale "pay-as-you-enter" on one day, a

smaller one on another, and a

Personal social services

From Mr Patrick Jenkin, MP for Redbridge, Wanstead and Woodford (Conservative)

Sir, Terry Bamford's excellent article on the Personal Social Services (May 10) makes a number of very important points with which I find myself wholly in accord.

The gravest of the reasons is the suggestion that the Prime Minister has lapsed into "Sir Harold Wilson's neoponitism and personal appointments". The suggestion seems to me grotesque—it is clearly true that Dr Owen's greatest difficulty in making the appointment was to overcome Mr Callaghan's resistance. Mr Callaghan has always shared the late Lord (Herbert) Morrison's contempt for, and vigorous opposition to, neoponitism and all that goes with it.

I find no less strange the suggestion that Mr Peter Jay will do well financially out of the £40,000 a year which as Ambassador to Washington since the war was Lord Harlech. His sister is the wife of Mr Maurice Macmillan and the daughter-in-law of Mr Harold Macmillan, who was Prime Minister at the time of Lord Harlech's appointment.

First, Whitehall must stop heapings new duties on to local authorities, whether by statute or by circular. For instance, I am not convinced that the costly, time-consuming bureaucratic procedures aimed at preventing child abuse are effective. Every single recent tragedy has involved cases already well known to the authorities. This may well be a better use of money than compiling elaborate registers of families, many of whom will be low risk cases. Further, a little sensible preparatory work for case conferences could cut the time spent on these by a half or two thirds.

Second, we politicians must be much braver in establishing priorities. You cannot give priority to everything. I and my colleagues have in hand an intensive study to establish where the highest priorities in the social services lie; we hope to publish our views later in the year.

Third, there is a real need for a new partnership with voluntary and self-help groups. I am impressed how far the social work profession has moved in recognizing the importance of the voluntary and self-help sector. The aim of the best social work has always been to help people to help themselves. This applies equally to groups and communities. The idea that responsibility can always be shifted off to Town or County Hall must be scotched. But partnership does not mean that volunteers are just a cheap pair of hands. The voluntary sector and the self-help groups must be closely involved in the planning of community social services from the start.

Finally, to make this effective, I am fully persuaded that the proportion of trained social workers must be increased. A trained social worker is far better able to work in partnership with volunteers than someone who is untrained. The Government admits that financing training on education grants is cheaper than recruitment by local authority social work departments. We say right to Whitehall's extra £500,000 for training will, in fact, achieve significantly less than if the same money were channeled through the DES. It is this sort of nonsense which makes the profession despair of Whitehall.

Many newly elected county councils will be looking for ways of getting better value for money in the personnel social services. Fewer circulars, better procedures, partnership with voluntary and self-help groups, and a better trained social work profession are positive ways of achieving this.

Yours etc,
PATRICK JENKIN,
Shadow Social Services Secretary,
House of Commons.
May 12.

Nato and disaster relief

From the Bishop of Leicester, and others

Sir, The need for better coordination of transport and communications in disaster relief operations has now made itself so tragically and repeatedly apparent that it seems to us a neglect of social responsibility if None, one of the most effective operational groups in the world, does not give a lead in this field. We must be allowed to consider how it can make a fraction of its resources available at the request of disaster-hit countries.

The need is not for a tightly-knit force but for advance joint planning between member countries.

It is too much to hope that the British Government will not be the last to encourage Nato on these lines, since there is already considerable support in Nato Headquarters for such planning?

Yours etc,
RONALD LEICESTER,
MAURICE CHANDLER,
Chairman, International Affairs
Committee, Church House,
GEORGE SINCLAIR,
Christian Aid.

A. YOUNGER,
Director General, Royal United
Services Institute,
House of Lords.

the first past-the-post system, and, by clear implication, that we are to think that Mr Jay is too scared to be asked to use anything else.

During recent years we have had to come to terms with decimalisation, inflation, and ever increasing array of increasingly complicated forms of taxation, social security, benefits, travel, insurance etcetera ad nauseam. Yet, we are told, we will not understand one or other form of voting under proportional representation, and in our miserable ignorance, we will stay away from the polls in droves.

This entire line of thinking constitutes an outrageous insult, and one which I counsel fellow Conservatives to eradicate immediately from their Euro-political vocabulary.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN SCROPE,
1 St Stephen's Gate, W1.
May 12.

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Yours faithfully,

HUGH CASSON,
President, Royal Academy of Arts,
Piccadilly, WI.

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Yours faithfully,

TONY SWAIN,
Circulation Director,
Evening News,
London, EC4.

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Yours faithfully,

CARMELETTA HOUSE,
14 Buckingham Street, WC2.

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Yours faithfully,

R. A. COBBETT,
6 The Drive,
Evington,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
May 4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Personal social services

From Mr Philip Noel-Baker

Sir, I read with surprise this morning (May 12) your headline on page 8. "Mr Jay's appointment shocks the House of Commons"; and with even more surprise Mr David Wood's account of the reasons why "Frontbenchers and Backbenchers on both sides were shocked".

The gravest of the reasons is the suggestion that the Prime Minister has lapsed into "Sir Harold Wilson's neoponitism and personal appointments". The suggestion seems to me grotesque—it is clearly true that Dr Owen's greatest difficulty in making the appointment was to overcome Mr Callaghan's resistance. Mr Callaghan has always shared the late Lord (Herbert) Morrison's contempt for, and vigorous opposition to, neoponitism and all that goes with it.

First, Whitehall must stop heapings new duties on to local authorities, whether by statute or by circular. For instance, I am not convinced that the costly, time-consuming bureaucratic procedures aimed at preventing child abuse are effective. Every single recent tragedy has involved cases already well known to the authorities. This may well be a better use of money than compiling elaborate registers of families, many of whom will be low risk cases. Further, a little sensible preparatory work for case conferences could cut the time spent on these by a half or two thirds.

Second, we politicians must be much braver in establishing priorities. You cannot give priority to everything. I and my colleagues have in hand an intensive study to establish where the highest priorities in the social services lie; we hope to publish our views later in the year.

Third, there is a real need for a new partnership with voluntary and self-help groups. I am impressed how far the social work profession has moved in recognizing the importance of the voluntary and self-help sector. The aim of the best social work has always been to help people to help themselves. This applies equally to groups and communities. The idea that responsibility can always be shifted off to Town or County Hall must be scotched. But partnership does not mean that volunteers are just a cheap pair of hands. The voluntary sector and the self-help groups must be closely involved in the planning of community social services from the start.

Finally, to make this effective, I am fully persuaded that the proportion of trained social workers must be increased. A trained social worker is far better able to work in partnership with volunteers than someone who is untrained. The Government admits that financing training on education grants is cheaper than recruitment by local authority social work departments.

Many newly elected county councils will be looking for ways of getting better value for money in the personnel social services. Fewer circulars, better procedures, partnership with voluntary and self-help groups, and a better trained social work profession are positive ways of achieving this.

We hope that Mr Jay will not have to put up for long with the kind of carpentry, small-minded criticism with which some people have greeted his appointment. And, if we confidently expect, the choice proves in practice to be justified, we also hope that an incoming Conservative Government will not be tempted to deprive the country of the services of a potentially first-rate Ambassador to the United States.

Yours faithfully,
D. M. GRAHAM.
16 South Eason Place, SW1.
May 12.

From Mr Christopher Cole

Sir, Peter Jay's appointment to Washington is an excellent appointment, and any comments to the contrary do, to me, seem to be just as easily generalised.

Mr Jay is, I believe, one of the most brilliant minds of my generation, and I remember that at Christ Church, Oxford, from 1958-1961, in a cast of outstanding talent among our contemporaries he was not only the most gifted but also one of the kindest people there.



COURT CIRCULAR

COURTHAM PALACE

May 12: His Excellency Mousteur Mocilab Jablonski and Madame Jablonska were received in farewell audience by Her Queen's Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Belgrade.

Mrs Farquharson had the honour of being received by The Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE

May 12: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon laid the Foundation Stone of the Rehabilitation and Assessment Centre at St John of God Hospital, Scorton.

Her Majesty travelled in an Aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

The Lady Jean Rankin and Major John Griffin were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

May 12: The Duke of Gloucester opened the Inner London Education Authority Silver Jubilee "Art for Pleasure" Exhibition at County Hall, London, this morning. His Royal Highness was received on arrival by the Chairman of the Authority, Mrs Anna Li Grieves.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

May 12: The Duke of Kent this morning attended the British Overseas Trade Board's International Conference at Liverpool and subsequently visited the factory of H. H. Robertson (UK) Limited at Ellesmere Port.

His Royal Highness, who travelled in an Aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Lieutenant-Commander Richard Buckley RN.

The Duchess of Kent, as Chancellor, this morning visited exhibitions in connection with Open Day at the University of Leeds.

Mrs Peter Wilmot-Silwatt was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

May 12: Princess Alexandra, Patron of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, this afternoon opened Poly-Court, the new Training Centre at Wokingham, Berkshire.

The Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

Princess Anne will not open the London Experience in Piccadilly Circus on Wednesday, as arranged.

The chairman of the Rose Ball committee would like to thank all those who supported Alexandra Rose Day. All tickets for the Rose Ball at Grosvenor House on May 19 have been sold.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Rear-Admiral J. S. C. Lee Assistant Chief of Fleet Support to be Director General Naval Manpower and Training in December.

Dr Paul Dean, head of space and air research and of research and development contractors divisions, Department of Industry, to be Director of the National Physical Laboratory, from October 1, in succession to Sir Ieuan Maddock, who is to retire.

Birthdays today

Dame Daphne du Maurier, 70; the Rev Dr Ernest Evans, 88; Sir John Habakuk, 62; Sir John Johnston, 59; Colonel Sir Godfrey Llewellyn, 84; Sir John Pagan, 62; the Earl of Perth, 70; Sir Alfred Pugsley, 74.

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Forthcoming Marriages

Mr A. J. Proud and Miss F. J. Brain.

The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. G. Proud, of Colchester, Essex, and Janice, second daughter of Lord and Lady Brian of Street, Somerset.

Mr R. Atkinson and Mrs M. H. Walker.

The engagement is announced between Robert Adkinson, of 14 Ivy Park Court, Sheffield S10 5LA; and Hazel Walker, of Denes Grange, Lindisfarne Road, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The marriage will take place in Sheffield Cathedral on Saturday, July 30, 1977.

Mr A. E. Campbell and Miss F. J. Owen.

The engagement is announced between Andrew Bruce, elder son of his Honour Judge Bruce Campbell QC, and Mrs Campbell, of 10 Highgate, The Temple, London EC4, and Felicity, joint only daughter of Mr and Mrs Dennis Owen, of Pine Gardens, Eastcote, Middlesex.

Mr W. P. Durlacher and Miss E. M. Alliburn.

The engagement is announced between William Patrick, younger son of Mr and Mrs J. S. Durlacher, of White Friars, Oak Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent, and Elizabeth Mary, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs P. C. Alliburn, of Bradenham Hall, Thetford, Norfolk.

Lieutenant-Commander R. E. D. Cawthron and Miss J. L. Body.

The engagement is announced between Robin Edward Douglas, son of Commander J. P. House, OBE, DSC, RN, of Foro Ercole, Poole, and the Rev Mr House, and Jane Louise, elder daughter of Brigadier and Mrs P. R. Body, of Chapel Cottage, Corfe Castle, Dorset.

Mr S. R. P. Mostyn-Williams and Miss F. V. Hilton.

The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Dr and Mrs J. P. Mostyn-Williams, of Gladstone, Wimborne, Dorset, and Felicity, daughter of Mr R. K. Williams, of Covala, Broadstairs, Kent, and the Late E. L. Hilton.

Mr M. J. F. Pickering and Miss W. G. Darling.

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Dr and Mrs J. F. Pickering, of Muscat, Oman, and Peebles, Scotland, and Gillian, third daughter of Major and Mrs P. H. Darling, of Warwick, Bermuda.

Mr V. J. W. Scott and Miss S. E. Adams.

The engagement is announced between Vivian, elder son of Mrs P. Baguley and the late Mr M. W. Scott, of Letheringham, and Shirley, younger daughter of the late Mr and Mrs F. V. Adams, of Yateley.

Dr C. A. N. Sears and Mrs J. L. Martin.

The engagement is announced between Charles, elder son of Dr and Mrs H. T. N. Sears, of Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, and Judith, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs L. V. Martin, of Little Shurdington, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Exhibitions: "Silver Jubilee souvenirs" and "Enterprise and innovation", Design Centre, Haymarket, end May 26.

"Painting as a pastime", exhibition of paintings of Sir Winston Churchill, Kenwood House, Hampstead, Bond Street.

Hackney jubilee exhibition of children's art, Town Hall, Mare Street.

Marriage

Major V. P. W. Harnsworth and Miss A. Melkoff.

The marriage took place in the church of St. Werburgh, Barmouth, between Miss Vyvyan Gards and Miss Alexandra Melkoff.

The Rev Peter Denton and the Rev Neville Thomas officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her uncle Mr Habakuk, was attended by Capt. Glynn, the Hon. Henrietta Miford, Lorna Miller Thomas and Katie-Elizabeth Warner. Mr Rodney Moore was best man.

Luncheons

Junior Carlton Club The political council of the Junior Carlton Club entertained Professor Robert Michael, Vice-Chancellor, School of Economics and Political Science, at luncheon yesterday. Mr Cyril Norton, chairman of the political council presided.

West India Committee The annual general meeting and luncheon of the West India Committee was held yesterday at the Waldorf Hotel. Mr J. F. P. Tate, chairman of the committee, presided.

Receptions

Prime Minister

The Prime Minister and Mrs Callaghan were hosts at a reception at 10 Downing Street yesterday evening in honour of delegates of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's twenty-sixth parliamentary seminar.

Lord Crook

Lord Crook was host at a reception at the House of Lords yesterday for the presentation of the British Safety Council's diploma in safety management awards. Dr

The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were entertained by the Tallow Chandlers' Company.

The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were entertained by the Tallow

Chandlers' Company at a dinner at their hall last night. The Master, Mr R. T. D. Wilton, presided, and Mr Alderman R. A. R. Hedderwick, chairman of the Society, gave the toast to the guests. Among others present were the Earl of Shrewsbury, and the Masters of the Ironmongers' and Wheelwrights' Companies.

Service dinners

Gray's Inn

Yesterday, being Grand Day of Easter Term, the Treasurer of Gray's Inn, Judge Everett QC, and the Masters of the Bench entertained dinner at dinner the following guest in Hall:

Lord Justice Sumner, Mr Justice Lowe, Mr Justice Oliver, Mr Justice Parker, Mr Justice Sundberg, Mr F. B. Pepler, Mr John Butler and Mr Peter Gerrard.

Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators

The Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators held a dinner at Cutler's Hall last night. The President, Captain Angus C. Gordon, presided and proposed the health of the guests, and Air Marshal Sir Ivor Broom replied.

Tallow Chandlers' Company

The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were entertained by the Tallow

Chandlers' Company at a dinner at their hall last night. The Master, Mr R. T. D. Wilton, presided, and Mr Alderman R. A. R. Hedderwick, chairman of the Society, gave the toast to the guests. Among others present were the Earl of Shrewsbury, and the Masters of the Ironmongers' and Wheelwrights' Companies.

Appointments

Diocese of Sheffield

The Rev R. C. Ashurst, Chaplain to the Royal Engineers, has been appointed to the Rectory of Dillington, near Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

St Edmund's College, Cambridge

Mr P. M. Fraser, MA, Fellow of St Edmund's College, Cambridge, has been appointed to the Rectory of St Edmund's College, Cambridge.

University of Leicester

The Rev C. G. Collyer, Senior Fellow of Somerville College, Oxford, has been appointed to the Chair of French at the University of Leicester.

Grants

From Science Research Council

Mr D. J. McElroy, of the University of Bristol, has been awarded a grant of £10,000 for research on X-ray diffraction studies of biological materials.

Department of Natural Philosophy, University of Cambridge

Mr J. E. G. Smith, of the Cavendish Laboratory, has been awarded a grant of £10,000 for research on the properties of organic semiconductors.

University of Bristol

Mr D. J. Williams, of the Department of Physics, has been awarded a grant of £10,000 for research on the properties of organic semiconductors.

University of Edinburgh

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University of Exeter

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University of Hull

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University of London

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University of Manchester

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University of Nottingham

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University of Oxford

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University of St Andrews

Mr D. J. Williams, of the Department of Physics, has been awarded a grant of £10,000 for research on the properties of organic semiconductors.

University of Wales

Mr D. J. Williams, of the Department of Physics, has been awarded a grant of £10,000 for research on the properties of organic semiconductors.

University of Worcester

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University of York

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Church news

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The Rev R. C. Ashurst, Chaplain to the Royal Engineers, has been appointed to the Rectory of Dillington, near Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

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Hectic dealing

Account Days : Dealings Began, May 9. Dealings End, May 20. 5 Contango Day, May 23. Settlement Day, May 31.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Tanners to pursue legal battle with NEB

By Derek Harris

Sixteen leading tanners who last month failed to get a court injunction to stop the National Enterprise Board from completing a £5m support deal for the tanning interests of Barrow Hepburn Group (BHG), announced yesterday that legal action was to be continued against the NEB.

The tanners group had already begun legal action against the NEB, alleging a breach of its statutory duties, before an application was made for an interim injunction to restrain the NEB from completing the deal.

There has been speculation since the injunction failed that the tanners group might give up its original legal action.

One new factor has been that Mr Justice Talbot, when he heard the injunction application in chambers, gave leave for BHG to be joined to the action. So was British Tanners' Products, the new company in which the NEB has bought half the equity.

Talks among the members of the tanners group, whose chairman is Mr Fred Lang, vice-chairman of Scottish Tanning Industries, have continued over the past 10 days.

Yesterday the group reiterated its view that some of the terms of the joint NEB-BHG venture were "uncommercial and preferential".

The statement added: "These terms could lead to unfair trading, undermining the rest of the tanning industry, and therefore cannot go unchallenged."

Opec hint of single oil price structure

From Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Qatar, May 12

Sheikh Abdul Aziz, the Opec chairman, said here today it would be preferable to revert to a single price structure for oil.

He was thus holding out the prospect of another surprise decision on oil prices when the ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meet in Stockholm in July.

Detailed consultations and soundings are being taken among the oil-producing countries in preparation for the Stockholm meeting. Most significantly, Sheikh Abdul Aziz stressed the importance of the July meeting. Most significantly,

by President Carlos Perez of Venezuela.

Without revealing details, the sheikh spoke tantalizingly of the "surprise" decision which he believes will emerge from the July meeting.

Given his apparent preference for a single-price structure to supersede the present two-tier arrangement, he indicated that the surprise element might well lie in the length of time which the producers will stipulate for any new agreement should last.

This could be an integral part of the deal to be announced, he said. "Certainly there is a need for the position to be clarified."

2pc increase in applications for patents last year

From Kenneth Owen
Oslo, May 12

A slight increase during 1976 in the number of patent applications, and a slight decrease in the number of complete specifications filed, are disclosed in the annual report of the Comptroller-General of Patents, Trade Marks and Designs, which was published yesterday.

Applications rose by 2.2 per cent to 54,561; while specific applications decreased by 1.8 per cent to 40,806. The backlog of patent specifications awaiting examination fell by about 4,000.

It was a "fairly quiet year" in respect of major new departures, the report says. Protein chemistry provided one rapidly developing area of interest.

"Parents, Designs and Trade Marks 1976" (54th report of the Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks. HMSO £1.)

He seemed confident that a compromise would be reached, and in a comment reflecting his chairmanship of Opec, added that while a single price structure was to be preferred, there was nothing wrong with a two-tier system.

Its introduction had been used by some, he suggested, as a way of predicting the imminent collapse of Opec, yet it was really no different in concept to the existing multi-price system operated by the oil companies in Europe and America.

On another important topic, Sheikh Abdul Aziz said plans were now advanced for unifying Gulf currencies, though Saudi Arabia would not participate.

The five currencies involved in this unification, which should take place by next March, are the Qatar riyal, the Bahrain dinar, the Qatar dinar and the Omani riyal.

This is seen as a preliminary step towards establishment of a Gulf market with similar trading ideals to those of the European Community. Final details for the unification, which will result in the creation either of a Gulf riyal or Gulf dinar, are being worked out by monetary agencies of the countries.

Qatar is entering the Euro currency market, where it is presently negotiating a \$500m (£300m) loan.

Japanese claim real cut of 12-15pc in ship charges

From Peter Hill

Japan's shipbuilders claimed today that the gap between their price levels and those of European yards have narrowed considerably in the past two months. Earlier this year Japanese government agencies ordered yards to raise ship export prices by 5 per cent in response to growing European opposition to alleged Japanese price-cutting.

Officials of the Japan ship exporters' association noted at a press conference here today, however, that the 5 per cent rise coincided with the effective revaluation of the yen had in fact led to a real increase in ship export prices of between 12 and 15 per cent.

As part of the same anti-recession package proffered to Europe, the Japanese government is refusing export licences to ships destined for United Kingdom yards.

certain European countries whose domestic industries are severely hit by the world recession. In the first four months of this year Japanese yards obtained contracts for 92 ships totalling 1,528,000 gross tons.

Mr Masashi Isano, president of the association, said Japan believed it was its duty to build high quality ships at reasonable prices whenever there was demand from owners.

On the question of increased government subsidies in Europe, he emphasized that these should be regarded only as temporary.

Meanwhile, executives of British Shipbuilders arrived back here today after talks in London with a group of powerful Hongkong shipowners. There is optimism that discussions which are expected to continue in the next few months will lead to orders being placed with Northern Ireland, totalling nearly £3m.

Shippers plan ferry services at £5m Ulster dock

As concerted moves between British Rail, Townsend Thoresen, the harbour management and the security forces, succeeded in reopening Ulster's strike-bound seaport at Larne yesterday, it was revealed that two shipping companies—of which one is unnamed—are negotiating to establish roll-on/roll-off ferry services from the new £5m harbour at Warrenpoint, Co Down.

Mr Albert McCaffin, acting general manager of the Warrenpoint Harbour Authority, which has been unaffected by the Loyalist disruption of the past 10 days, said that the two companies had recently resumed negotiations.

Improvements at Belfast harbour are included in the schemes to be assisted in the latest round of EEC regional development fund grants to Northern Ireland, totalling nearly £3m.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Special factors at Shell



Mr Michael Pocock, chairman of Shell product margins underwriting services.

currency movements continue to camouflage Shell's underlying trading performance which, though moving in the right direction, still has a backlog of about £100m owing to the group's reliance on lighter oil products where margins are being held down by market conditions in the United Kingdom. For instance, Shell is still losing in a loss.

The other complicating factor is the otherwise better than expected first quarter rise in oil imports from £263m to £416m, the amount of special profits rising from the increases in oil prices at the start of the year.

Stock movements within the group, particularly in the £75-100m worth of current investments, were the cause of the invention, up to £54m. Lower than the first quarter last year £54m. Taking these into account, the improvement was impressive.

All the same, Shell appears to have been able to get back its increases rather faster than expected in certain markets, thanks to the rise in spot prices during the cold snap for heating and fuel oil, particularly the rest gas has had its usual seasonal first quarter while North Sea production was strong to build up and take care no longer quite headaches there were.

Chemical margins, however, are still in the doldrums and overall Shell is having difficulty recovering the average 7% cent rise in crude costs it had to bear so far this year.

With the continuing problems caused by the two-tier oil price structure and absence of significant stock profits in the second quarter along with the continued strength of the pound, which will adversely affect overseas earnings translated into sterling, 1977's outcome, including currency changes, will look as though it will fall in the £1,500-£1,600m range for prospective p/e ratio of under 5 at 550p.

What would breathe life into the shares, however, would be success with the Treasury pressing its claim for dividend freedom to unlock the 20p share of undistributed dividends at the moment.

Shell Transport & Trading

First quarter 1977 (£'000)
Capitalization £3,038m
Net assets £5732m (44,434m)
Net Income £416m (£229m)

Burmah Oil

A long haul

For all Burmah's benefit in the short report that it is on a sound basis for recovery, it is equally clear that the rehabilitation process will be slow. For one thing, regarding to a positive cash flow is dependent on the LNG programme (and this to a much lesser extent) and the outlook for tanker rates is such that this will take a minimum of two years.

For another, tanker losses are going to be a millstone for a similar period and through the group has already made provision for another five cancellations last year at a cost of £32m, there are unlikely to be further gains this year to offset provisions on the other two cancellations to be provided this year.

Meanwhile, the sharp improvement in second half profits last year is hardly repeatable, and the new year will see little more than will be no further exchange gains nor compensation on the Performance contracts while the Bahamas Terminal will continue to barely break even.

For the rest, the balance sheet is now on a distinctly more even keel though the \$145m from the General Dynamics deal is currently being contracted while the Bahamas Terminal will continue to barely break even.

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Now that the emphasis has switched to the equity pitch, Akroyd, of course has to share the spoils with rather more rivals though its books only blank spots are in financials and engineering. Meanwhile, it is worth noting that the shares after yesterday's 8p climb to 230p are selling at less than four times first half earnings alone.

The prospective yield however is only 11 per cent, which is not excessive given the volatility of savings—and Akroyd must be kicking itself for failing to take advantage of its last year of dividend freedom as a new public company to put through a major increase last time.

Interim 1976-77 (1975-6)
Capitalization £18.4m
Turnover £13,140m (£10,732m)
Pre-tax profits £7.95m (£13.59m)
Earnings per share net (nil)

Lloyds & Scottish

Ahead of the upturn

Lloyds & Scottish has never gone in for the big bang effect achieved by some of its sister house competitors, and in its ten years the 15 per cent annual improvement recorded over the first half of the current year is respectable. It was the more respectable for the fact that the six months in question to the end of March saw interest rates rise to record levels and that Lloyds & Scottish, which still does over 60

per cent of its lending on a fixed rate basis, inevitably found its margins squeezed.

That profits advanced as much as they did is a reflection of higher volume—particularly in industrial hire purchase, where much of the business is on a variable rate basis—and on a variable rate progress by the industrial and commercial subsidiaries. Here a continuing poor performance by British Railways, where rising costs have offset the benefits of the November price increase, is balanced by better results from the factoring companies and good figures from Caledonian Traders and the House of Clydesdale.

Whether Lloyds & Scottish now intends to strengthen the division by the acquisition of the taxicab distributor Mann & Overton—in which it acquired a 23.2 per cent stake, a week ago—remains an open question.

For the remainder of the year, the investment in the business will be making the running, benefiting now that rates have fallen back from the business taken on when rates were high. A 5.85 per cent prospective yield at 102p is insufficient justice to both the record and the prospects, though the presence of two major shareholders is likely to prevent the shares acquiring star status.

Interim 1976-77 (1975-6)
Capitalization £103.5m
Pre-tax Profits £7.53m (£6.52m)
Dividend gross 2.37p (2.15p)
18 month period

Akroyd & Smithers

Riding the gilt boom

Akroyd & Smithers' latest figures give a clear enough indication of the amazing switchback the whole stock market has been forced to ride during the last 18 months. On turning up by just over one-third, the stockjobbers' interim pre-tax profits—covering the six months to March 25—are more than three times ahead at a handsome £10.4m. And that figure makes an extraordinary comparison with the paltry £70,000 chalked up in the immediately preceding six months.

Gilt of course provided most of the excitement in a period which saw the Government raising £25,500m 10 changes in the MLR rate (down to 10.4 per cent from 13.5 per cent) and a near 14 point move in the FT Gilts-edged index to 69.49. Even though a lot of the steam has since left the gilt sector, Akroyd & Smithers looks likely to suffer a second-half slump like that of last year despite its cautious murmurings about the uncertainties of Phase Three and inflation levels.

Inflation is not significantly mentioned in the DIW report, different from that in West Germany and neither is unemployment. There are about 38,000 out of work—some 5 per cent of the workforce.

In the past few years there has been a concerted effort to rationalize industry to save labour. This has increased productivity by about 10 per cent in the past year, made some sectors of industry more competitive and has helped to boost the overall economic growth rate.

There are, however, indications of a continuing erosion of the city's economic foundations. Improved communications with West Germany, the consolidation of West Berlin's political status since the Four Power Agreement of 1971, the so-called "natural relationship" with West Germany and the financial subsidies and incentives offered to private enterprise, have not been sufficient to counteract the disadvantages of geographical and industrial isolation.

During the present economic recession West Berlin has looked on helplessly as large firms under the guise of "rationalization" have transferred parts or even their entire production to West Germany. Workers and businessmen have followed the firms.

There are now few industrial jobs vacant. Since 1976 the number of people employed in industry in West Berlin has fallen by over 27 per cent.

Hence the importance of using the resources of the research associations, the universities and the government research establishments.

In its attempt to raise the performance of the engineering industry by introducing modern technology, the new scheme (known as the Manufacturing Advisory Service) is similar to the Ministry of Technology projects of 1964-70, many of which were cancelled by the Conservative government when they abolished the ministry in 1970.

Now the new scheme is seen as an integral part of the present government's industrial strategy to improve the performance of the manufacturing industry. It will be coordinated by the Production Engineering Research Association.

At a technology transfer conference held by the research associations in London earlier this week, Sir Ronald McIntosh, director general of the National Economic Development Office, outlined a central problem.

Technology transfer was close to the core of Britain's present industrial problems, as it is called, are occupying many people both in industry and in the Department of Industry at present. And they are helping to find a new role for the country's 30 research associations, which because they are close to particular industries, are (or should be) skilled practitioners in technology transfer.

Last week Mr Eric Varley,

Secretary of State for Industry,

set out his aims for the new

Department of Industry.

At a meeting of the

Manufacturing Advisory Service

on May 10, he said:

"We must do great damage to industry with off-the-peg expertise

done by about 100 of them. Hence the importance of using the resources of the research associations, the universities and the government research establishments.

The Department of Industry's thinking was outlined by Mr Anthony Rawlinson, Second Permanent Secretary. Major innovation in machines, materials and techniques was still important, he said, but we needed to shift the balance towards spreading existing well-known knowledge more widely through industry, "and getting it acted on and exploited."

Expenditure on R and D in the mechanical engineering industry had fallen by 30 per cent between 1966-69 and 1972-3, and this was before "the great inflation of 1973-5 in which many engineering companies were forced to cut back severely, wherever they could, simply in order to survive".

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Chemical Society and the Institution of Electrical Engineers, of the Info-Line information retrieval service. (A fifth partner in Info-Line, Derwent Publications, was announced yesterday.)

And, Mr Rawlinson hinted, there could well be some "modest" government funding for research associations which proposed to strengthen their services in assessing overseas technology.

Thirdly, he continued, management needed to be alerted to the significance of the existing technology. Here the initiatives included the Design Council's engineering design advisory service, and the new manufacturing advisory service (which was expected to cost about £1.75m over the first two years).

Fourthly, the mobility of people should be encouraged—within companies and between government and industry in both directions.

In parallel with the various moves to stimulate technology transfer, a new project has been mounted to investigate the process of innovation in medium-sized companies. Backing has come for this from the Department of Industry, the National Research Development Corporation, the Foundation for Management Education, the Council of Engineering Institutions and from industry.

Secondly, Mr Rawlinson said, we must not neglect existing knowledge outside Britain. Expenditure on R and D was only about 7 per cent of that of the Western world; we needed to make some use of the other 93 per cent.

One of the department's recent moves in this direction was the setting-up, together with the British Library, the

Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

Helping industry with off-the-peg expertise

At the heart of many of Britain's present industrial problems lies an inability to harness available technology to meet market needs. In general, what is required is not spectacular innovation but up-to-date know-how; not original and expensive research and development but an awareness of what is already in existence elsewhere—perhaps in another industry, perhaps abroad.

The philosophy and processes of technology transfer, as much as they are, are occupying many people both in industry and in the Department of Industry at present. And they are helping to find a new role for the country's 30 research associations, which because they are close to particular industries, are (or should be) skilled practitioners in technology transfer.

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Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Company, Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

INTERIM REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1977

Financial Results

The consolidated unaudited results of T.C.L. and its subsidiaries for the six months ended 31st March, 1977 together with the results for the same period last year and the results for the year ended 30th September, 1976 are as follows:

	Half-year ended 31st March 1977 Notes	Year ended 30th September 1976 (R'000's)	1976 (R'000's)
Turnover	1	57 693	29 173
Consolidated profit before taxation	2	26 051	10 339
Taxation		10 267	3 656
Normal	1 205	1 961	2 817
Diluted	9 062	1 695	7 395
Consolidated profit after taxation	15 784	6 683	16 756
Less: Profit attributable to outside shareholders in subsidiary companies	3 393	880	3 370
Interest of members of T.C.L.	12 391	5 803	13 386
Shares in issue	7 304 838	7 304 838	7 304 838
Earnings per share	169.6c	79.5c	183.2c
Dividends per share	30.0c	23.0c	75.0c

Notes

- Turnover is the revenue derived from the coal, chrome and timber sales of subsidiary companies.
- Of the increase in turnover of R28 million for the six months, compared on the same period of the previous year, R23 million is accounted for by the increase in the revenue from exports, mainly coal exports, which started in April 1976. Some decline in the level of coal exports is expected during the second half of the current financial year and may result in a lower turnover than that achieved during the period covered by this report.
- The consolidated profit after taxation includes investment realisation amounting to R60 000 equivalent to 0.8 cents per share (six months ended 31st March, 1976: R56 000—0.8 cents per share; year ended 30th September, 1977: R212 000=2.9 cents per share).

Interim Dividend

An interim dividend of 30 cents per share has been declared in terms of the Dividend Notice published herewith.

Profit and Dividend Prospects

The consolidated profit after taxation is significantly higher than that for the corresponding period last year, because of the increased volume of coal and chrome sales. However, it is noted that coal sales have now reached their present planned level and no further increase is likely except for some minor increase in the second half of the year. The increased interim dividend has been declared with the aim of reducing the disparity between interim and final dividends. For the reasons stated above, and having regard to the very heavy capital expenditure programme, the final dividend for the year to be declared in October 1977 may not show an increase. In this event the total dividend distribution for the year could be 82 cents per share (1976: 75 cents).

Assets and Listed Investments

At 30th September, 1976 it was estimated that the current value of mining and forestry assets, excluding mineral rights, exceeded net book value by R18 million. The directors are of the opinion that at 31st March, 1977 there has been no material change in that excess.

Market values of the group's listed investments are as follows:

	At 31st March 1977 (R'000's)	At 30th September 1976 (R'000's)	1976 (R'000's)
Market value of listed investments	48 418	44 873	30 352
(Book value of listed investments)	(10 373)	(10 921)	(10 629)
Market value of T.C.L.'s holdings in listed subsidiaries, not included in above	79 321	31 284	65 793

Proposed Capital Expenditure and Commitments

Capital expenditure during the half year amounted to R19 million. During the second six months a further R36 million is expected to be outlaid.

Proposed capital expenditure over a period of approximately five years totals R174 million including commitments contracted for R34 million. This expenditure is stated in current values and is to be met from earnings and finance arranged.

For and on behalf of the Board
A. C. Petersen (Chairman) Directors
R. S. Lawrence

Dividend No. 75

Dividend No. 75 of 30 cents per share has been declared in South African currency as an interim dividend in respect of the year ending 30th September, 1977 payable to members registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 27th May, 1977 and to persons presenting coupon No. 76 detached from bearer share warrants. The dividend on bearer share warrants will be paid in terms of a notice to be published later by the company's secretaries in London.

The rate of exchange at which the dividend will be converted into United Kingdom currency for payment of the dividend from the office of the company's secretaries in London will be the telegraphic transfer rate of exchange between Johannesburg and London ruling on the first business day after 27th May, 1977 on which foreign currency dealings are transacted.

The register of members will be closed from 28th May to 5th June, 1977, inclusive, and dividend warrants will be posted on or about 5th July, 1977.

Where applicable non-resident shareholders' tax of 15% will be deducted from the dividend.

The full conditions of payment of this dividend may be inspected at or obtained from the Johannesburg or the London offices of the company.

By order of the Board,
RAND MINES, LIMITED,

Secretaries

per M. B. Dunderdale

United Kingdom Registrars and Transfer Agents:

Charter Consolidated Limited,

P.O. Box 102,

Charter House, Park Street,

Ashford, Kent TN24 8EQ.

12th May, 1977

Required to distribute to Yarrow a dividend of at least £750,000 for the year to June 30, 1977. It is probable that an application will be made to the Department of Industry for an additional distribution which will be related to the accumulated retained profits of the shipbuilding company for the year to that date.

Meanwhile, a dividend of £500,000 has been paid to Yarrow. Mr Yarrow says that the group is in a strong financial position, and the board has under consideration a number of opportunities for the future development of the group, after the departure of the shipbuilding companies.

Of the outlook, he says that it is understandable that the compensation will be the subject of early negotiations with the Department of Industry, and will probably have to go to arbitration. As yet he can give no accurate estimate of the final amount.

Meanwhile the shipbuilding companies show a fall in pre-tax profits from £2m to £1.2m for the half year. Turnover rose from £15.4m to £16.6m.

Under the Aircraft & Shipbuilding Industries Act the shipbuilding companies are

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Rights issues by Amal Power and Stanley Gibbons to raise £3m

Victor Felsstedt
is leaving the growing list of companies to ask shareholders for up fresh funds for expansion. Two firms in very differing fields. The companies concerned are amalgamated Power Engineers, which makes steam turbines, diesel engines, air and compressors, etc., and Stanley Gibbons International, the banknote, coin and map dealers.

PE is raising about £100,000 by a one-for-three issue at 70p per share. This is rising £73,000, or expenses, by a one-for-right at 25p each. The shares of both groups—by 13p yesterday—Gibbons closed at 125p, and APE at 99p.

The total gross payment for 1976 is being lifted by the maximum allowed, from 51p to 56.2p and the board predicts a total of 8p gross for the current year in the enlarged capital. The Treasury has agreed to this.

Mr H. A. Whistall, chairman of APE, reports that the United Kingdom's economic difficulties have had their effect on the company, but the problems reported in 1974 and 1975 on fixed-price contracts have at last been overcome and virtually all the low-margin, fixed-price contracts have now been worked out. The board is optimistic for the current year.

Gibbons forecasts a total gross dividend of 5p gross on the bigger capital for the current year and the Treasury has agreed. A total of 4.21p gross has been declared for 1976.

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Ir Joseph to more share sales

Maxwell Joseph has turned up, albeit unwillingly, as a seller of shares in hotel, leisure, beer and group Grand Metropolitan. He has sold 150,000 es.

Chairman explains that was simply the second part disposal of 250,000 shares last week. He says the were sold for purely personal reasons to meet tax bills. "I am not selling more in any circumstances." He also has the option of remaining the holder round 7.25m.

GLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED (Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF DIVIDEND WARRANTS TO BEARER

PAYMENT OF COUPON NO. 87

With reference to the notice of variation of dividend advertised in the press on 4th May, 1977, the Board of Directors authorizes the payment of a dividend of 10 cents per share in respect of holders of warrants having a net dividend of 100 cents per share.

Interest on the bearers shares will be paid on or after 10th June, 1977 at a rate of 10% per annum.

At the office of the following continental paying agents:

1. e.s. Bouleau, Haussmann, Paris 8e
Banque Brussels Lambert, 2 Rue de la Regence, 1000 Brussels

Societe Generale de Banque, 3, Rue du Marché aux Herbes, 1000 Brussels

Swiss Bank Corporation, Bahnhofstrasse 40, Zurich

Banque Internationale à Luxembourg SA, 2, Rue du Palais Royal, Luxembourg

Union Bank of Switzerland, Bahnhofstrasse 45, Zurich

Payments in respect of coupons dated at the office of the continental paying agent will be made in South African currency to an authorized dealer in exchange in the Republic of South Africa.

Information regarding disposal of the proceeds of the payment so made can only be given to such authorized dealers.

At the London Stock Exchange:

One of the Consolidated 40 Holders Vieduct, London EC1P 1AJ. Unless personal coupons are held in trust, an application for payment in South African currency will be made in the Republic of South Africa.

In respect of coupons dated at the office of the continental paying agent:

1. e.s. Bouleau, Haussmann, Paris 8e
Banque Brussels Lambert, 2 Rue de la Regence, 1000 Brussels

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At the office of

COMMODITIES AND MARKET REPORTS

COPPER. Cash wire bars lost £3.50 moon.—Cash wire bars, 8517-17.50; moon, first months, 1833-8.50; second months, 1833-9.50; third months, 1833-10.50; fourth months, 1833-11.50; fifth months, 1833-12.50; sixth months, 1834-14.50; three months, 1834-15.50; four months, 1834-16.50; five months, 1834-17.50; six months, 1834-18.50; seven months, 1834-19.50; eight months, 1834-20.50; nine months, 1834-21.50; 10 months, 1834-22.50; 11 months, 1834-23.50; 12 months, 1834-24.50; 18 months, 1834-25.50; 24 months, 1834-26.50; 30 months, 1834-27.50; 36 months, 1834-28.50; 48 months, 1834-29.50; 60 months, 1834-30.50; 72 months, 1834-31.50; 84 months, 1834-32.50; 96 months, 1834-33.50; 108 months, 1834-34.50; 120 months, 1834-35.50; 132 months, 1834-36.50; 144 months, 1834-37.50; 156 months, 1834-38.50; 168 months, 1834-39.50; 180 months, 1834-40.50; 192 months, 1834-41.50; 204 months, 1834-42.50; 216 months, 1834-43.50; 228 months, 1834-44.50; 240 months, 1834-45.50; 252 months, 1834-46.50; 264 months, 1834-47.50; 276 months, 1834-48.50; 288 months, 1834-49.50; 300 months, 1834-50.50; 312 months, 1834-51.50; 324 months, 1834-52.50; 336 months, 1834-53.50; 348 months, 1834-54.50; 360 months, 1834-55.50; 372 months, 1834-56.50; 384 months, 1834-57.50; 396 months, 1834-58.50; 408 months, 1834-59.50; 420 months, 1834-60.50; 432 months, 1834-61.50; 444 months, 1834-62.50; 456 months, 1834-63.50; 468 months, 1834-64.50; 480 months, 1834-65.50; 492 months, 1834-66.50; 504 months, 1834-67.50; 516 months, 1834-68.50; 528 months, 1834-69.50; 540 months, 1834-70.50; 552 months, 1834-71.50; 564 months, 1834-72.50; 576 months, 1834-73.50; 588 months, 1834-74.50; 600 months, 1834-75.50; 612 months, 1834-76.50; 624 months, 1834-77.50; 636 months, 1834-78.50; 648 months, 1834-79.50; 660 months, 1834-80.50; 672 months, 1834-81.50; 684 months, 1834-82.50; 696 months, 1834-83.50; 708 months, 1834-84.50; 720 months, 1834-85.50; 732 months, 1834-86.50; 744 months, 1834-87.50; 756 months, 1834-88.50; 768 months, 1834-89.50; 780 months, 1834-90.50; 792 months, 1834-91.50; 804 months, 1834-92.50; 816 months, 1834-93.50; 828 months, 1834-94.50; 840 months, 1834-95.50; 852 months, 1834-96.50; 864 months, 1834-97.50; 876 months, 1834-98.50; 888 months, 1834-99.50; 900 months, 1834-100.50; 912 months, 1834-101.50; 924 months, 1834-102.50; 936 months, 1834-103.50; 948 months, 1834-104.50; 960 months, 1834-105.50; 972 months, 1834-106.50; 984 months, 1834-107.50; 996 months, 1834-108.50; 1008 months, 1834-109.50; 1020 months, 1834-110.50; 1032 months, 1834-111.50; 1044 months, 1834-112.50; 1056 months, 1834-113.50; 1068 months, 1834-114.50; 1080 months, 1834-115.50; 1092 months, 1834-116.50; 1104 months, 1834-117.50; 1116 months, 1834-118.50; 1128 months, 1834-119.50; 1140 months, 1834-120.50; 1152 months, 1834-121.50; 1164 months, 1834-122.50; 1176 months, 1834-123.50; 1188 months, 1834-124.50; 1200 months, 1834-125.50; 1212 months, 1834-126.50; 1224 months, 1834-127.50; 1236 months, 1834-128.50; 1248 months, 1834-129.50; 1260 months, 1834-130.50; 1272 months, 1834-131.50; 1284 months, 1834-132.50; 1296 months, 1834-133.50; 1308 months, 1834-134.50; 1320 months, 1834-135.50; 1332 months, 1834-136.50; 1344 months, 1834-137.50; 1356 months, 1834-138.50; 1368 months, 1834-139.50; 1380 months, 1834-140.50; 1392 months, 1834-141.50; 1404 months, 1834-142.50; 1416 months, 1834-143.50; 1428 months, 1834-144.50; 1440 months, 1834-145.50; 1452 months, 1834-146.50; 1464 months, 1834-147.50; 1476 months, 1834-148.50; 1488 months, 1834-149.50; 1500 months, 1834-150.50; 1512 months, 1834-151.50; 1524 months, 1834-152.50; 1536 months, 1834-153.50; 1548 months, 1834-154.50; 1560 months, 1834-155.50; 1572 months, 1834-156.50; 1584 months, 1834-157.50; 1596 months, 1834-158.50; 1608 months, 1834-159.50; 1620 months, 1834-160.50; 1632 months, 1834-161.50; 1644 months, 1834-162.50; 1656 months, 1834-163.50; 1668 months, 1834-164.50; 1680 months, 1834-165.50; 1692 months, 1834-166.50; 1704 months, 1834-167.50; 1716 months, 1834-168.50; 1728 months, 1834-169.50; 1740 months, 1834-170.50; 1752 months, 1834-171.50; 1764 months, 1834-172.50; 1776 months, 1834-173.50; 1788 months, 1834-174.50; 1800 months, 1834-175.50; 1812 months, 1834-176.50; 1824 months, 1834-177.50; 1836 months, 1834-178.50; 1848 months, 1834-179.50; 1860 months, 1834-180.50; 1872 months, 1834-181.50; 1884 months, 1834-182.50; 1896 months, 1834-183.50; 1908 months, 1834-184.50; 1920 months, 1834-185.50; 1932 months, 1834-186.50; 1944 months, 1834-187.50; 1956 months, 1834-188.50; 1968 months, 1834-189.50; 1980 months, 1834-190.50; 1992 months, 1834-191.50; 2004 months, 1834-192.50; 2016 months, 1834-193.50; 2028 months, 1834-194.50; 2040 months, 1834-195.50; 2052 months, 1834-196.50; 2064 months, 1834-197.50; 2076 months, 1834-198.50; 2088 months, 1834-199.50; 2100 months, 1834-200.50; 2112 months, 1834-201.50; 2124 months, 1834-202.50; 2136 months, 1834-203.50; 2148 months, 1834-204.50; 2160 months, 1834-205.50; 2172 months, 1834-206.50; 2184 months, 1834-207.50; 2196 months, 1834-208.50; 2208 months, 1834-209.50; 2220 months, 1834-210.50; 2232 months, 1834-211.50; 2244 months, 1834-212.50; 2256 months, 1834-213.50; 2268 months, 1834-214.50; 2280 months, 1834-215.50; 2292 months, 1834-216.50; 2304 months, 1834-217.50; 2316 months, 1834-218.50; 2328 months, 1834-219.50; 2340 months, 1834-220.50; 2352 months, 1834-221.50; 2364 months, 1834-222.50; 2376 months, 1834-223.50; 2388 months, 1834-224.50; 2400 months, 1834-225.50; 2412 months, 1834-226.50; 2424 months, 1834-227.50; 2436 months, 1834-228.50; 2448 months, 1834-229.50; 2460 months, 1834-230.50; 2472 months, 1834-231.50; 2484 months, 1834-232.50; 2496 months, 1834-233.50; 2508 months, 1834-234.50; 2520 months, 1834-235.50; 2532 months, 1834-236.50; 2544 months, 1834-237.50; 2556 months, 1834-238.50; 2568 months, 1834-239.50; 2580 months, 1834-240.50; 2592 months, 1834-241.50; 2604 months, 1834-242.50; 2616 months, 1834-243.50; 2628 months, 1834-244.50; 2640 months, 1834-245.50; 2652 months, 1834-246.50; 2664 months, 1834-247.50; 2676 months, 1834-248.50; 2688 months, 1834-249.50; 2700 months, 1834-250.50; 2712 months, 1834-251.50; 2724 months, 1834-252.50; 2736 months, 1834-253.50; 2748 months, 1834-254.50; 2760 months, 1834-255.50; 2772 months, 1834-256.50; 2784 months, 1834-257.50; 2796 months, 1834-258.50; 2808 months, 1834-259.50; 2820 months, 1834-260.50; 2832 months, 1834-261.50; 2844 months, 1834-262.50; 2856 months, 1834-263.50; 2868 months, 1834-264.50; 2880 months, 1834-265.50; 2892 months, 1834-266.50; 2904 months, 1834-267.50; 2916 months, 1834-268.50; 2928 months, 1834-269.50; 2940 months, 1834-270.50; 2952 months, 1834-271.50; 2964 months, 1834-272.50; 2976 months, 1834-273.50; 2988 months, 1834-274.50; 2900 months, 1834-275.50; 2912 months, 1834-276.50; 2924 months, 1834-277.50; 2936 months, 1834-278.50; 2948 months, 1834-279.50; 2960 months, 1834-280.50; 2972 months, 1834-281.50; 2984 months, 1834-282.50; 2996 months, 1834-283.50; 3008 months, 1834-284.50; 3020 months, 1834-285.50; 3032 months, 1834-286.50; 3044 months, 1834-287.50; 3056 months, 1834-288.50; 3068 months, 1834-289.50; 3080 months, 1834-290.50; 3092 months, 1834-291.50; 3104 months, 1834-292.50; 3116 months, 1834-293.50; 3128 months, 1834-294.50; 3140 months, 1834-295.50; 3152 months, 1834-296.50; 3164 months, 1834-297.50; 3176 months, 1834-298.50; 3188 months, 1834-299.50; 3200 months, 1834-300.50; 3212 months, 1834-301.50; 3224 months, 1834-302.50; 3236 months, 1834-303.50; 3248 months, 1834-304.50; 3260 months, 1834-305.50; 3272 months, 1834-306.50; 3284 months, 1834-307.50; 3296 months, 1834-308.50; 3308 months, 1834-309.50; 3320 months, 1834-310.50; 3332 months, 1834-311.50; 3344 months, 1834-312.50; 3356 months, 1834-313.50; 3368 months, 1834-314.50; 3380 months, 1834-315.50; 3392 months, 1834-316.50; 3404 months, 1834-317.50; 3416 months, 1834-318.50; 3428 months, 1834-319.50; 3440 months, 1834-320.50; 3452 months, 1834-321.50; 3464 months, 1834-322.50; 3476 months, 1834-323.50; 3488 months, 1834-324.50; 3500 months, 1834-325.50; 3512 months, 1834-326.50; 3524 months, 1834-327.50; 3536 months, 1834-328.50; 3548 months, 1834-329.50; 3560 months, 1834-330.50; 3572 months, 1834-331.50; 3584 months, 1834-332.50; 3596 months, 1834-333.50; 3608 months, 1834-334.50; 3620 months, 1834-335.50; 3632 months, 1834-336.50; 3644 months, 1834-337.50; 3656 months, 1834-338.50; 3668 months, 1834-339.50; 3680 months, 1834-340.50; 3692 months, 1834-341.50; 3704 months, 1834-342.50; 3716 months, 1834-343.50; 3728 months, 1834-344.50; 3740 months, 1834-345.50; 3752 months, 1834-346.50; 3764 months, 1834-347.50; 3776 months, 1834-348.50; 3788 months, 1834-349.50; 3800 months, 1834-350.50; 3812 months, 1834-351.50; 3824 months, 1834-352.50; 3836 months, 1834-353.50; 3848 months, 1834-354.50; 3860 months, 1834-355.50; 3872 months, 1834-356.50; 3884 months, 1834-357.50; 3896 months, 1834-358.50; 3908 months, 1834-359.50; 3920 months, 1834-360.50; 3932 months, 1834-361.50; 3944 months, 1834-362.50; 3956 months, 1834-363.50; 3968 months, 1834-364.50; 3980 months, 1834-365.50; 3992 months, 1834-366.50; 4004 months, 1834-367.50; 4016 months, 1834-368.50; 4028 months, 1834-369.50; 4040 months, 1834-370.50; 4052 months, 1834-371.50; 4064 months, 1834-372.50; 4076 months, 1834-373.50; 4088 months, 1834-374.50; 4000 months, 1834-375.50; 4012 months, 1834-376.50; 4024 months, 1834-377.50; 4036 months, 1834-378.50; 4048 months, 1834-379.50; 4060 months, 1834-380.50; 4072 months, 1834-381.50; 4084 months, 1834-382.50; 4096 months, 1834-383.50; 4108 months, 1834-384.50; 4120 months, 1834-385.50; 4132 months, 1834-386.50; 4144 months, 1834-387.50; 4156 months, 1834-388.50; 4168 months, 1834-389.50; 4180 months, 1834-390.50; 4192 months, 1834-391.50; 4204 months, 1834-392.50; 4216 months, 1834-393.50; 4228 months, 1834-394.50; 4240 months, 1834-395.50; 4252 months, 1834-396.50; 4264 months, 1834-397.50; 4276 months, 1834-398.50; 4288 months, 1834-399.50; 4300 months, 1834-400.50; 4312 months, 1834-401.50; 4324 months

secretarial and Non-secretarial appointments

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Newgate Street, London EC1A 7EE

For cancellation of Step
Number 27, see page 27.

"... Howbeit Jesus w^t catch
the Devil. Go then how great
friends, and tell them how good
they are. The first have done for
them. The last have done for
them."

Matthew 13 v. 19.

BIRTHS

ANDERSON—On May the 11th,
1977, at St Thomas's Hospital,
London, to John and Margaret
(née) and George—son.

BARNARD—On May 10th,
at Alton, Hampshire, and a daughter,
a daughter (Nicola Elizabeth).

DAVISON—On May 10th, at Quay
Charlotte's, 10 Jersey Road, Guy
Mansion, London SW1, a son,

MATTHEWS—On the 29th May,
to Helen (née Scars) and Christopher
(Camille) Helens.

MCCOSH—On Sunday April 30th,
1977, at Queen Mary's Hospital,
Fareham, Hampshire, to Dennis
(Peter Brian), a brother, and
Sarah (née) and Richard.

METHEU—On May 10th, 1977,
at St Peter's Hospital, Cheltenham,
to Mary and Richard—a daughter.

MIDDLETON—On May 11th, 1977,
at the Royal Hampshire County
Hospital, Winchester, to a son
(Charles Roger).

MUNSELL—On May 11th,
1977, at the Royal Hampshire
Hospital, Cheltenham, to
Peter and David—a son, brother
for Sarah and Linda.

OBITUARIES—On May 10th,
1977, at Mount Alvernia, Guildford,
to Robert and Muriel—son.

SWIFT—On May 11th, at West
Bromwich, to John and Barbara—
daughter (Tina). (See Deaths.)

THOMAS—On May 11th, 1977,
at the Royal Hampshire County
Hospital, Winchester, to a son
(Charles Roger).

WILLIS—FLEMING—On 11th May,
1977, at the Royal Hampshire
Hospital, Cheltenham, to a
daughter (Janet) and her
husband, John.

BIRTHDAY

HILL RYAN—Happy Birthday, love
from Anna.

MARRIAGES

ASHNER : CHANDLER—On May
11th, 1977, at the Royal Hampshire
Hospital, Cheltenham, to Maurice

MARRIAGES

COCHENE : BESPOLOVA—On
May 11th, 1977, at the Royal
Hospitals, Cheltenham, and Tatton
Park, Cheshire. Present address: 7
Court, Drayton Gardens, S.W.1.

DEATHS

BLACK—On Thursday 12th May,
1977, peacefully in hospital,
husband of Patricia, 30, George
Tanner, Balfour and Sons, Pease
George, Dorset and Sons, Pease
Crematorium, St. Mungo's Chapel,
Birmingham. Saturday 13th May,
10.30 a.m. Burial, St. Mungo's
Chapel, Birmingham. Tel. 021-521-
1251. (See Deaths.)

DYSON—On May 12th, Irene
Dyson, of Braeside, Kent, widow
of Dr Harold Edward

HARRIS—On May 12th, 1977,
Winchester, Hampshire, beloved
wife of her husband and many
dear friends. Memorial service
of ashes at St. Mary's Church,
Winchester, on Friday 13th May,
12.30 p.m. Enquiries to Mr. and
Mrs. Richard H. F. S. W. 13. (See
Deaths.)

HODGES—On May 12th, Irene
Hodges, of Braeside, Kent, widow
of Dr Harold Edward

JONES—On May 12th, 1977,
Winchester, Hampshire, beloved
wife of her husband and many
dear friends. Memorial service
of ashes at St. Mary's Church,
Winchester, on Friday 13th May,
12.30 p.m. Enquiries to Mr. and
Mrs. Richard H. F. S. W. 13. (See
Deaths.)

KELLY—On May 12th, Irene
Kelly, of Braeside, Kent, widow
of Dr Harold Edward

LEWIS—On May 12th, Irene
Lewis, of Braeside, Kent, widow
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MCINTYRE—On May 12th, Irene
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